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Message from the President



Dear Members,

I hope this newsletter finds you well and that you were all able to enjoy a restful summer break. As the holidays come to an end and we return to our daily routines, I would especially like to wish a good and confident start to the new school year to all our children with cochlear implants, together with their families and teachers. A smooth return to the classroom, with the right support in place, matters enormously — and it remains one of the reasons our work is so important.

As we look ahead, there are two occasions where I very much hope to meet many of you in person.

First, in Berlin: the German hearing-loss community will celebrate *125 years of the hard-of-hearing movement* ("125 Jahre Schwerhörigenbewegung") during an action week from 17 to 20 September, under the fitting motto "*Gemeinsam besser hören*" – *Better hearing, together*. It is a remarkable milestone, and a wonderful reminder of how much can be achieved when people with hearing loss stand together. I hope to be there, and it would be a great pleasure to see some of you as well.

Second, in Brussels: EURO-CIU will once again take part in the CIICA Conference, CI Advocacy in Action 2026, on 22 and 23 October. As in previous years, these two days promise inspiring presentations, valuable exchange, and — above all — the shared advocacy that strengthens the voice of cochlear implant users across Europe and beyond. I warmly encourage you to join us in Brussels and to add your voice to the network.

Both events remind us of the same truth: we are strongest when we act together. I look forward to meeting you in Berlin, in Brussels, or wherever our shared commitment brings us.

I wish you an enjoyable read of this edition of the newsletter, and my sincere thanks go once again to Brian for his excellent work.

Warm regards,

Tobias Fischer
President, EURO-CIU

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[Message from the Editor of the EURO-CIU Newsletter](#)



Well, it's now Autumn - so I hope that you've all had a good summer, even though it may have been too hot for some of you!

Many thanks for your contributions - it's good to hear from you all. We are also grateful to the cochlear implant companies for keeping us up to date.

As always, there are a lot of articles and photographs in this edition.

Please feel free to forward this Newsletter to Members of Parliament, Members of the European Parliament, friends, colleagues and members of your own organisations. We are keen to increase the number of people who can read about the benefits of cochlear implantation. Let's get the message across! If anyone you know would like to receive their

own copy of this newsletter, just send me their email address.

The next edition will be due in December, so please let me have your articles and jpg photos by Monday 7 December 2026. Just e-mail them to me at newsletter@eurociu.eu. As mentioned in previous editions, the ideal size is up to approximately 500 words per article, and our newsletter software only allows one image per article - although photos can be combined into a collage of several photos.

I look forward to hearing from you.

With every good wish.

Brian Archbold (Editor)

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EURO-CIU NEWS – Ruud van Hardeveld, previous Secretary of EURO-CIU passed away on 5 May 2026



It is with sadness in our hearts that we inform you of the passing of Ruud van Hardeveld on May 5, 2026, at the age of 94.

In the Netherlands, Ruud was a member of the Dutch Committee on Cochlear Implantation of the NVVS and was the representative of this group in EURO-CIU, where they appointed him very soon as Secretary. He performed this role excellently from May 2003 till April 2011. Ruud was a true Secretary: very careful and precise in his wording, and always impeccably professional.

He also liked working with numbers, figures and statistics and discovered Microsoft Excel very quickly. At EURO-CIU, he initiated the collection of data for each European country