Text 1

EU REPORT ON SOCIAL SERVICES OF GENERAL INTEREST

Generally, health and social services play a significant role in the economies and societies of the EU Member States. They meet essential social needs, generate employment on a large scale and contribute significantly to GDP. Yet, at the moment, their importance varies widely across the EU. Their economic, social and employment potentials are clearly underdeveloped in certain Member States. Public perceptions show that, as a result, social needs are insufficiently met and expectations are frustrated.

Text 2

THE EUROPEAN ANTI-POVERTY NETWORK

In spite of the overall wealth of the European Union (EU), poverty in the EU is still at a relatively high level. Nearly 1 in 7 people are at risk of poverty. The figures are even higher for some groups such as children and older people. This is a direct attack on people's fundamental rights, limits the opportunities they have to achieve their full potential, brings high costs to society and hampers sustainable economic growth. Poverty also reflects failures in the systems for redistributing resources and opportunities in a fair and equitable manner.

Text 3

SOCIAL WORK WITH UNACCOMPANIED ASYLUM-SEEKING YOUNG PEOPLE

In the UK there are currently some 5,000 unaccompanied asylum-seeking young people who are being looked after or supported by local authorities. In some respects these young people present a fresh version of familiar challenges and dilemmas for social workers. Separation and loss are fundamental parts of any unaccompanied child's story, as for many young people that social workers care for. Providing care and protection to unaccompanied asylum seekers from overseas, however, presents a number of additional, different challenges.

Text 4

EU COMMISSION'S DISABILITY STRATEGY

One in six people in the European Union – around 80 milion – have a disability that ranges from mild to severe. Over one third of people aged over 75 have disabilities that restrict them to some extent. These numbers are set to rise as the EU population grows progressively older. Most of these people are all too often prevented from fully participating in society and the economy because of physical or other barriers, as well as discrimination.

Text 5

WHAT IS MENTAL HEALTH?

Mental health is not just the absence of mental disorder. It is defined as a state of well-being in which every individual realizes his or her own potential, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and is able to make a contribution to her or his community. Instead of providing care in large psychiatric hospitals, countries should integrate mental health into primary health care, provide mental health care in general hospitals and develop community-based mental health services.