



EUROPEAN UNION

Delegation of the European Union

Skopje, 2 April 2014

**Autism Awareness Raising Day "One World for All"
[City Mall]**

Speaking points
Ambassador Aivo Orav
Head of EU Delegation

Dear First Lady Ms Ivanova,

Dear children and parents,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to express my appreciation for offered patronage of this year's campaign "One world for all".

I accepted with great honour wanting to contribute in raising the public awareness and in influencing change in the approach on all issues relating to autism, including the promotion of the rights of people with autism and other disabilities involving complex dependency needs.

We all play a role, starting from decision-makers to ordinary citizens. Our main objective should always be to advance the rights of persons with autism and their families and to help them improve their quality of life.

Recently, I read an article by Temple Grandin, scientist diagnosed with autism as a child, making the case that the world needs people on the autism spectrum: visual thinkers, pattern thinkers, verbal thinkers, and all kinds of smart geeky kids.

Since, the world needs all kinds of minds and we all should enjoy equal rights and inclusion in the society.

Thank you very much for your attention.