

**European Midwives Association (EMA)  
Estonian Midwives Association (EÄÜ)**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**27th of September 2007**

**Annual General Meeting of EMA (European Midwives Association), 28. – 29.  
September 2007 in Tallinn.**

The Annual General Meeting of EMA (European Midwives Association) takes place in Tallinn on 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> September 2007.

The meeting is hosted by the Estonian Midwives Association. There are midwives from 19 different European countries.

The meeting will be opened by the Minister of Social Affairs of Estonia, Mrs. Maret Maripuu.

President of EMA, Deirdre Daly from Ireland: "The EMA is delighted to be in Estonia for our Annual General Meeting and thanks the Estonian Midwives Association for this kind invitation.

EMA understands that Estonia is in the process of amending the legislation that affects midwives and midwifery practice. Such legislative change is welcome and it is hoped that it will provide full choice for women for their place of birth and options for care. It is hoped also that it will recognise fully the role of the midwife, the autonomous nature of midwives and the freedom to practise and fulfil all the *Activities of the Midwife* according to the EU Directives and the definition of the midwife according to the International Confederation of Midwives.

The Estonian Midwives Association in cooperation with the Ministry of Social Affairs of Estonia hopes to finalise the legislation on independent midwifery care and hopes to get it adopted into practice from 1st January, 2008.

Deirdre Daly  
European Midwives Association, President

Siiri Põllumaa,  
Estonian Midwives Association, President