



## 4<sup>th</sup> European Parliament of Persons with Disabilities

Wednesday 6 December 2017  
European Parliament Hemicycle (Brussels)

### DRAFT PUBLIC AGENDA

- 10:00**                      **Official Opening**
- Chaired by EDF President Yannis Vardakastanis*
- EP President Antonio Tajani
- EDF President Yannis Vardakastanis
- 10:20 – 12:25**            **We want to vote! Towards accessible European elections 2019 and a full participation in political and public life for persons with disabilities**
- Co-chaired by Ádám Kósa, co-President of the EP Disability intergroup, Marek Plura, Vice President of the EP Disability Intergroup and Maureen Piggot, EDF Executive Committee*
- Speakers:**                Georgios Dassis, President of the EESC  
Danuta Hübner, Chair of the EP AFCO Committee (tbc)  
Harry Roche, MENCAP  
Dimitrios Papadimoulis, MEP Vice-President in charge of gender equality and diversity  
Krzystof Pater, member of the EESC, rapporteur on the 'The real right of persons with disabilities to vote in European Parliamentary elections'  
Pat Clarke, EDF Vice-President
- 11:25 - 12:25**            **Plenary debate 1:** round of interventions by MEPs and delegates of the European disability movement
- 12:25 – 12:30**            **Adoption of EDF Manifesto on the European Elections**
- 12:30 - 14:00**            Lunch break (room Yehudi Menuhin, PHS building, 1<sup>st</sup> floor)
- 14:00 - 16:00**            **Human Rights for All: towards a European Disability Strategy 2020-2030 and Inclusive EU budget**



# EUROPEAN DISABILITY FORUM



*Co-chaired by Helga Stevens, Kostandinka Kuneva, co-Presidents of the EP Disability Intergroup and Gunta Anca, EDF Executive Committee*

**Speakers:**

Commissioner Marian Thyssen  
Commissioner Corina Crețu  
Marita Ulvskog, MEP, Acting Chair of EP EMPL Committee  
(tbc)  
Emily O'Reilly, European Ombudsman  
Luca Visentini, Secretary General ETUC  
Jana Hainsworth, President Social Platform  
Rodolfo Cattani, EDF Executive Committee

15:00-15:55 **Plenary debate 2:** round of interventions by MEPs and delegates of the European disability movement

15:55-16:00 Adoption of the Resolution on the European Disability Strategy

**16:00- 17:25** **The EU in the world: leading by example on Sustainable Development and the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**  
*Co-chaired by Olga Sehnalova, co-President of the EP Disability Intergroup, Marian Harkin, Vice-President of the EP Disability Intergroup and Nadia Hadad EDF Executive Committee*

**Speakers:**

Commissioner Stylianides  
Philip Lamberts, co-President of the Greens/EFA Group  
Commissioner Mimica (by pre-registered video)  
Stefano Manservigi, Director-General of DEVCO (TBC)  
SDG Watch Europe (TBC)  
Chair of the DEVE Committee (*tbc the week of the 13<sup>th</sup> Nov*)  
Ana Pelaez, EDF Vice-President

16:45-17:25 **Plenary debate 3:** round of interventions by MEPs and delegates of the European disability movement

**17:25-17:30** **Concluding remarks**  
Yannis Vardakastanis, EDF President



## BACKGROUND

The 4<sup>th</sup> European Parliament of Persons with Disabilities (EPPD) is intended to foster a dialogue between delegates of organisations of persons with disabilities from all EU Member States and from all disability groups - representing the European disability movement in its entire diversity -, Members of the European Parliament and EU decision makers.

The EPPD will mark international Day of Persons with Disabilities and the 20th anniversary of the European Disability Forum: EDF was created in 1997 to bring together representative organisation of persons with disabilities from across Europe and be a strong, united voice of the 80 million Europeans with disabilities. EDF works to ensure that decisions concerning persons with disabilities are taken with persons with disabilities, through their active involvement in policy and decision-making: This is the basis of the motto 'nothing about us without us'.

The EPPD has been held three times to date - in 1993, 2003 and 2012. The 1st EPPD was organized under the initiative of the European Commission within the scope of the HELIOS Program before the creation of the European Disability Forum (EDF), and coincided with the adoption of the UN Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities; the 2nd EPPD, organised this time by EDF, marked the end of the European Year of Persons with Disabilities 2003 and the 10th anniversary of the UN Standard Rules, and took place while negotiations for the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD) were ongoing; and the 3rd EPPD focused on the implementation of the UN CRPD in the EU in a time of crisis, following its ratification and immediately prior to the EU submitting its first implementation progress report to the CRPD Committee.

The UN CRPD and its optional protocol were adopted on 13 December 2006 by the UN General Assembly. Since then, the Convention has been ratified by 173 countries, including 27 EU Member States, and the optional protocol has been ratified by 92 countries, including 22 EU Union member states. The European Union concluded the UNCRPD on 23 December 2010, while EU ratification of the optional protocol remains pending. In 2015, the EU was reviewed by the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on its progress in implementing the UN CRPD and received commendations from the Committee ('Concluding Observations').

The 4<sup>th</sup> EPPD will be held to mark EDF's 20th anniversary, as the European institutions take on board the CRPD Committee concluding observations to the EU and as work progresses to ensure full inclusion of persons with disabilities in the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals. Two resolutions will also be adopted by delegates from the organisations of persons with disabilities.



## RULES OF PROCEEDING

The EPPD aims to foster a dialogue between delegates of organisations of persons with disabilities and MEPs. Therefore, each of the three main sessions include a 'plenary debate'. These debates will use rules of procedure similar to those governing European Parliament plenary sessions: **lists of speakers will be agreed and allocated in advance of the event.** The organizers will ensure that the speakers' lists will be inclusive of the most marginalised persons with disabilities - women and children and young people with disabilities, people with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, people in need of high level support. The sessions will be co-chaired by EDF executive committee members and EP Disability Intergroup Bureau MEPs.

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

- ✓ Spoken Interpretation in all official EU languages
- ✓ International Signs interpretation
- ✓ Velotypist (speech-to-text) in English on a big screen
- ✓ Livestreaming in accessible format on the official website of the European Parliament
- ✓ Meeting documents in English, French, easy to read and braille formats