



To: Ms Lena Hallengren
Swedish Minister of Social Affairs

Brussels, 3 February 2022
Ref. EDF-22-10-YV-MLD

Re: European conference on the rights of persons with disabilities and Annual General Assembly of the European Disability Forum during Swedish Presidency of the Council 2023

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am contacting you concerning the 2023 Swedish Presidency of the Council of the EU and a possible event on the rights of persons with disabilities in Europe. We, the European Disability Forum as the umbrella organisation of disabled persons' organisations in the EU, and our members, Funktionsrätt Sverige, are working together on this issue.

Ideally, we would like to organise a conference on the rights of persons with disabilities in the EU together with EDF's Annual General Assembly in **May 2023 in Sweden**. If the situation allows, we expect around 200 delegates with disabilities from all over Europe to come to Sweden to discuss the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and other important policy issues related to disability.

For this event, we would like to ask for support by the Swedish government in the form of financial support to plan, organise and execute an event on Disability Rights in Sweden 2023.

We usually link our events to the current Presidency and have organised conferences for example in Denmark (2012), Croatia (2014), Austria (2018), Finland (2019) which were supported by the governments with funding of up to 50 000 EUR.

We are also planning on linking this conference closely to the Presidency Programme to give extra visibility to disability rights issues that are current on the agenda.

To discuss this topic in more detail, we would like to request a meeting. We are of course at your disposal for further questions if needed.

Yannis Vardakastanis

EDF President

Elisabeth Wallenius

President Funktionsrätt Sverige



The European Disability Forum (EDF) is an independent NGO that represents the interests of more than 80 million people with disabilities in Europe and promotes the implementation and monitoring of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). We are a unique platform which brings together representative organisation of persons with disabilities from across Europe. We are run by persons with disabilities and their families. We are a strong, united voice of persons with disabilities in Europe.

The Swedish Disability Rights Federation is the united voice of the Swedish Disability Rights movement. Our vision is a society for all, characterized by solidarity, equality and participation. Our goals are based on the UN convention on the rights of persons with disabilities, CRPD. The federation was founded 1942 and consists of 50 national organisations of persons with disabilities with about 400 000 individual members. We are active members of the European Disability Forum.