



EUROPEAN  
DISABILITY  
FORUM



European Parliament

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

Wednesday 6 December 2017  
European Parliament Hemicycle | Brussels

### Agenda

10:00 – 10:20

#### Official Opening

Antonio Tajani, President of the European Parliament

Yannis Vardakastanis, President of the European Disability Forum (EDF)

10:20 – 11:20

#### **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 European Parliament Disability Intergroup, Marek Plura, Vice President of the European Parliament Disability Intergroup and Maureen Piggot, Member of the EDF Executive Committee

#### **Speakers:**

Georgios Dassis, President of the European Economic and Social Committee;

Harry Roche, Board Member of Inclusion Europe and Member of the Steering Group of Inclusion Europe's Platform of Self Advocates;

Dimitrios Papadimoulis, Member of the European Parliament and Vice-President in charge of gender equality and diversity

Krzysztof Pater, Member of the European Economic and Social Committee;

Kostandinka Kuneva, co-President of the European Parliament Disability Intergroup;

Pat Clarke, EDF Vice-President.

11:20 - 12:25

**Plenary debate 1:** interventions by Members of the European Parliament and delegates of the European disability movement

12:25 – 12:30

#### **Adoption of EDF Manifesto on the European Elections**



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- 12:30 - 14:00**                      **Lunch break - for official delegates and MEPs only**
- 14:00 - 15:00**                      **Human Rights for All: towards a European Disability Strategy 2020-2030 and inclusive EU budget**
- Co-chaired by Helga Stevens, co-President of the European Parliament Disability Intergroup and Gunta Anca, Member of EDF Executive Committee
- Speakers:**  
Marianne Thyssen, European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility;  
Marian Harkin, Vice-President of the European Parliament Disability Intergroup  
Emily O'Reilly, European Ombudsman  
Luca Visentini, Secretary General of the European Trade Union Confederation  
Jana Hainsworth, President of Social Platform  
Mauro D'Attis, Member of the European Committee of the Regions  
Rodolfo Cattani, Member of EDF Executive Committee
- 15:00 - 15:55**                      **Plenary debate 2:** interventions by Members of the European Parliament and delegates of the European disability movement
- 15:55 - 16:00**                      **Adoption of EDF Resolution on the European Disability Strategy**
- 16:00 - 16:45**                      **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 European Parliament Disability Intergroup, and Nadia Hadad, Member of EDF Executive Committee
- Speakers:**  
Neven Mimica, European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development (by pre-registered video);  
Josep Maria Terricabras, Vice-president of the Greens/EFA group;  
Alison Coleman, SDG Watch Europe;  
Ana Peláez, EDF Vice-President;  
Christos Stylianides, European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management.



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16:45 - 17:25

**Plenary debate 3:** interventions by Members of the European Parliament 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 (3 December) and the 20th anniversary of the European Disability Forum (EDF). 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 organised under the initiative of the European Commission within the scope of the HELIOS Program before the creation of EDF, and coincided with the adoption of the United Nations (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 (CRPD) were ongoing; and the 3rd EPPD focused on the implementation of the 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 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 Member States. The EU concluded the CRPD on 23 December 2010, while EU ratification of the optional protocol remains pending. In 2015, the EU was reviewed by the CRPD Committee on its progress in implementing the CRPD and received commendations from the Committee ('Concluding Observations').

The 4th EPPD is held to mark EDF's 20th anniversary, as the EU 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 Members of the European Parliament. 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 organisers will ensure that the speakers' lists will be inclusive of the most marginalised persons with disabilities - women 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 Members of the EDF Executive Committee and Members of the European Parliament Disability Intergroup.

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

- ✓ Spoken Interpretation in all official EU languages (except Maltese/Gaelic)
- ✓ International Sign interpretation
- ✓ Velotypist (speech-to-text) in English
- ✓ Livestreaming in accessible format on the European Parliament TV ([www.europarl.europa.eu/ep-live](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/ep-live))
- ✓ Meeting documents available in English, French, Easy To Read and Braille