This is the programme of the 4th European Parliament of People with Disabilities.

The day is Wednesday December 6th, 2017.

Look up the definitions of the words in **bold** at the end of the text.

10:00 - 10:20  
**Start of the Day.**

**Speakers:**

Antonio Tajani  
President of the **European Parliament.**

Yannis Vardakastanis  
President of the **European Disability Forum (EDF).**

**Co-Chairs:**

Ádám Kósa  
Co-President of the **European Parliament Disability Intergroup.**

Marek Plura  
Vice President of the **European Parliament Disability Intergroup.**

Maureen Piggot  
Member of the **EDF Executive Committee.**

**Speakers:**

Georgios Dassis  
President of the **European Economic and Social Committee (EESC).**

Harry Roche  
Board member of **Inclusion Europe** and steering group member of **EPSA.**
Dimitrios Papadimoulis  
**Member of European Parliament (MEP)**  
and Vice President  
of Gender Equality and Diversity.

Krzystof Pater  
Member of the **EESC**.  
He reported on the rights of  
people with disabilities  
to vote in the  
European Elections.

Pat Clarke  
Vice President of **EDF**.

11:20 - 12:25:  
1st **Plenary Debate**.

12:25 - 12:30:  
Vote on **EDF's statement on the European Elections**.
12:30 - 14:00
Lunch Break
In Room Yehudi Menuhin
PHS building, 1st floor.

14:00 - 15:00
Talk on the **disability strategy**
for 2020-2030 in the **European Union**.
Talk about how to use **EU** money to help everyone.

**Co-Chairs:**

Helga Stevens
**MEP.**

Gunta Anca
Member of the **EDF**
Executive Committee.
Speakers:

Marianne Thyssen
European Commissioner.

Emily O'Reilly
European Ombudsman.

Corina Crețu
European Commissioner.

Marian Harki
Vice President
European Parliament
Disability Intergroup.

Luca Visentini
Secretary General
European Trade Union Confederation.

Mauro D’Attis
Member of the European Committee of the Regions.

Jana Hainsworth
President of Social Platform.

Rodolfo Cattani
EDF Executive Committee.
15:00 - 15:55: 2nd Plenary Debate.

15:55 - 16:00: Vote on a statement on the European Disability Strategy.

16:00 - 16:45: Session on the EU in the world. How can the EU be an example in the world for disability rights?

Co-Chairs:

Olga Sehnalová
Co-President
European Parliament
Disability Intergroup.

Nadia Hadad
EDF
Executive Committee.
Speakers:

Neven Mimica  
**European Commissioner.**

Philippe Lamberts  
**MEP** and Co-President of a European party.

Alison Coleman  
works at **SDG Watch** Europe.

Ana Peláez  
Vice-President of **EDF.**

Christos Stylianides  
**European Commissioner.**

16:45 - 17:25:  
3rd **Plenary Debate.**
17:25 – 17:30: Closing the Programme.

Speaker:

Yannis Vardakastanis
President of EDF.
Definitions:

**Chair**

A chair is someone who leads a meeting.
A co-chair is someone who leads a meeting together with other people.

**Commissioner at the European Union**

A Commissioner is a person who is responsible for a field of work at the European Commission and manages a lot of people.

**Election**

An election is when each person who is 18 years old or older goes to vote.
Elections decide who should speak for us and make choices for us.
Elections happen in different areas.
For example in your town or city when you can elect a new mayor.
Or in your country when you can elect a new president.

**European Commission**

The European Commission works with the European Parliament.
The European Commission suggests laws.
It also makes sure that the laws that have been decided upon are being followed by the member states.

**European Committee of the Regions**

The Committee of the Regions is an organisation in the European Union. It tries to make sure that the European Union listens to the different regions in Europe.

A region is a part of a country.

**European Disability Forum**

The European Disability Forum is an organisation of people with disabilities in Europe.

In short, we call it EDF.

EDF was created by people with disabilities in 1996.

EDF works to protect the rights of people with disabilities in Europe.

EDF is based in Brussels in Belgium.

**European Disability Strategy**

The European Disability Strategy is decided by the European Commission.
It helps give more rights to people with disabilities.
The strategy offers ways to help people with disabilities at both the European level and at the national level.

**European Economic and Social Committee**
The European Economic and Social Committee is an organisation in the **European Union**.
The European Economic and Social Committee is called the ‘EESC’ for short.
The EESC connects civil society with the **European Union**.
Civil society is made up of groups and organisations that represent citizens with different interests.

**European Ombudsman**
The European Ombudsman looks at how the **European Union** institutions work.
Sometimes the European Union institutions make mistakes.
People can tell the Ombudsman about it – this is called a complaint.
The European Ombudsman helps people who have complaints against a European Union institution.
European Parliament

The European Parliament is a place where important decisions of the European Union are made. For example: laws and budgets.

The Members of the European Parliament (in short, MEPs) make these decisions and represent all the people who live in the European Union. Every five years, the people who live in the European Union vote for their country’s MEPs.

European Parliament Disability Intergroup

The European Parliament Disability Intergroup is a group of MEPs who want to promote the rights of people with disabilities.

European Union

The European Union (in short, EU) is a group of 28 countries. We call these countries “member states”. They have joined together to be stronger politically and economically. The EU makes laws on many important things for the people who live in those countries.
The EU makes laws in different areas. Some examples are:

- Laws to protect the environment.
- Laws for farmers.

**Inclusion Europe**

Inclusion Europe is an organisation that works to protect the rights of people with intellectual disabilities in Europe.

Inclusion Europe is made up of member organisations from all over Europe.

The **European Platform of Self Advocates (in short, EPSA)** is made up of organisations of self-advocates from different countries in Europe.

It is a part of Inclusion Europe.

**Plenary Debate**

A plenary debate is a time for the speakers and the audience to speak together.

It is decided before who will speak during the debate.

In order to make sure all groups are heard there will be speakers who are women with disabilities and children with disabilities.
There will also be speakers with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities and speakers who need high levels of support.

**SDG Watch**

SDG Watch is a network of organisations that want to make sure that governments in the **European Union** are working towards the Sustainable Development goals.

**Sustainable Development** means helping people without hurting the environment.

**Social Platform**

Social Platform is a network of different organisations that works for human rights in the **European Union**.

**Trade Union**

A trade union is an organisation that speaks for people who work. It tries to make sure that they get paid right and that they do not need to work too long hours.