



# European Union: Advocacy in practice

September 2022

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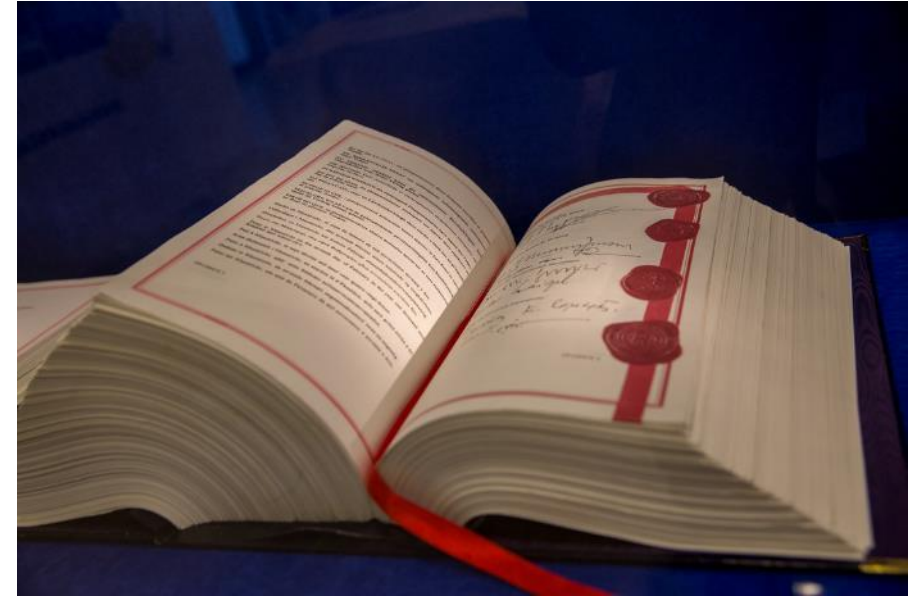


Citi Foundation



# The European Treaties

- Primary Law
  - Treaty of Lisbon
    - TEU- Treaty of the European Union
    - TFEU- Treaty of Functioning of the European Union
  - Together with Accession Treaties and National Constitutions and Legislation
- Secondary Law
- Case-Law of the CJEU



# Competences

## Exclusive

Customs Union  
Competition  
Single currency  
Maritime conservation  
Commercial policy  
International agreements  
(on these subjects)

## Shared

Single market  
Cohesion policy  
Social Affairs  
Transport  
Consumer protection  
Energy  
Freedom, security, justice  
Research  
International Cooperation

## Supporting /Coordinating / Supplementing

Culture  
Employment  
Education  
Vocational Training  
Youth  
Sport  
Health  
Tourism

# Legal instruments

**Regulations:** A "regulation" is a binding legislative act. It must be applied in its entirety across the EU.

**Directives:** A "directive" is a legislative act that sets out a goal that all EU countries must achieve. However, it is up to the individual countries to devise their own laws on how to reach these goals.

**Decisions:** A "decision" is binding on those to whom it is addressed (e.g. an EU country or an individual company) and is directly applicable.

**Recommendations:** A "recommendation" is not binding. A recommendation allows the institutions to make their views known and to suggest a line of action without imposing any legal obligation on those to whom it is addressed.

**Opinions:** An "opinion" is an instrument that allows the institutions to make a statement in a non-binding fashion, in other words without imposing any legal obligation on those to whom it is addressed.

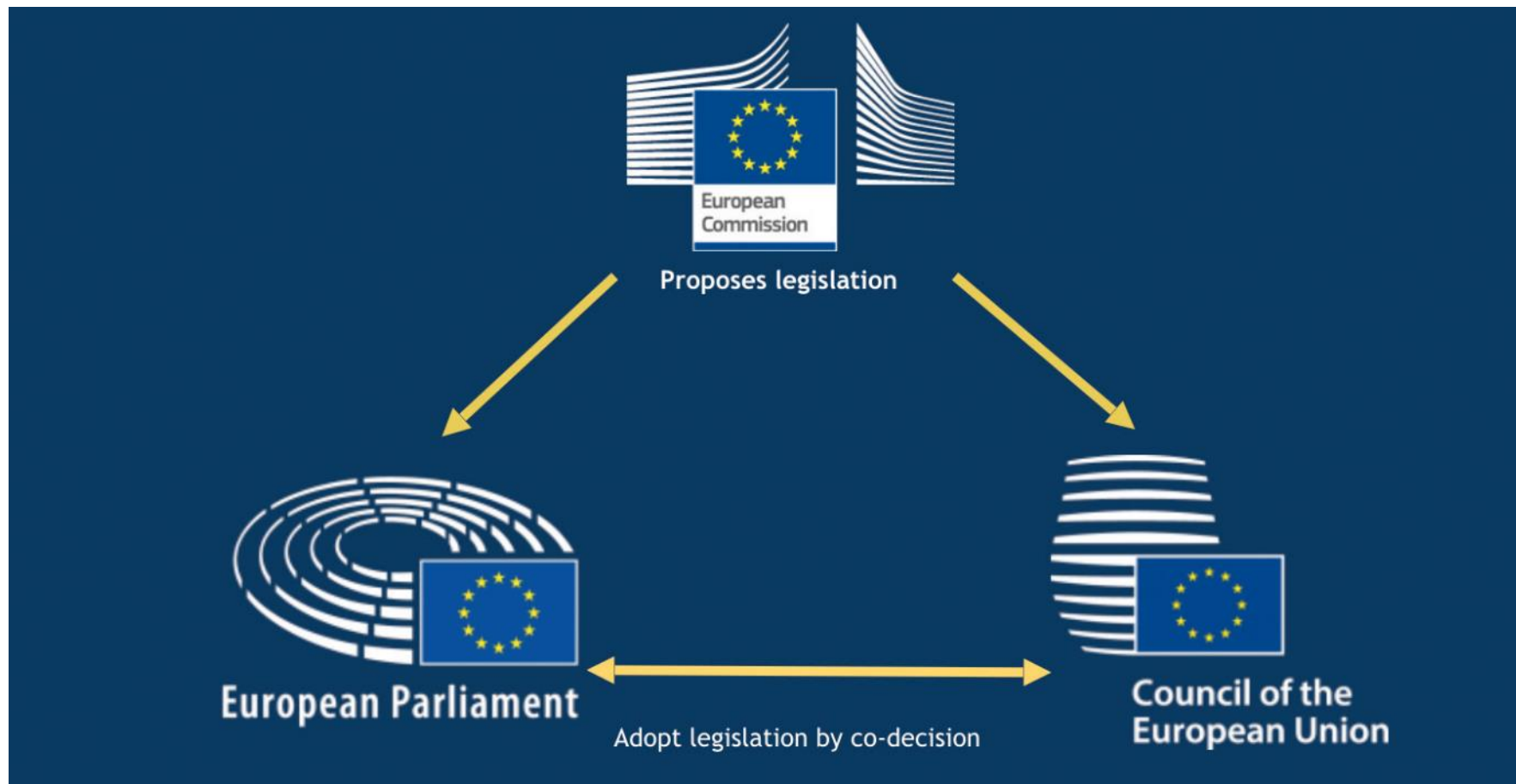
# The European Institutions



# The European Institutions



# How does the EU work?



Source: <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/>

# How does the EU work?





# How to advocate in the EU?

## Relevant concepts

- Representativity
  - Research and data support (renowned experts)
  - Transparency
  - Issues meet the timing and agenda...
- ... or you create the interest.

# How to advocate in the EU?

## Commission

- Important to find the correct person! →
- Work before the proposals
- Participate in the consultations
- Keep in touch and inform them about recent findings and problems



# How to advocate in the EU?

## European Parliament

- Find the right MEPs: Interest, knowledge, strength (country, party, group)
- Work with the assistants, and prepare the documentation and amendments as easy as possible
- Find out what political advantages can they get from supporting your position.

# How to advocate in the EU?

## The committees

20

|  | MEPs |  | MEPs |
|--|------|--|------|
| <b>AFET</b> Foreign Affairs 2 sub-committees:<br>Human Rights + Security and Defence | 71   | <b>TRAN</b> Transport and Tourism                        | 49   |
| <b>DEVE</b> Development  | 28   | <b>REGI</b> Regional Development                         | 43   |
| <b>INTA</b> International Trade  | 41   | <b>AGRI</b> Agriculture and Rural<br>Development         | 45   |
| <b>BUDG</b> Budgets  | 41   | <b>PECH</b> Fisheries                                    | 25   |
| <b>CONT</b> Budgetary Control  | 30   | <b>CULT</b> Culture and Education                        | 31   |
| <b>ECON</b> Economic and Monetary Affairs  | 61   | <b>JURI</b> Legal Affairs                                | 25   |
| <b>EMPL</b> Employment and Social Affairs  | 55   | <b>LIBE</b> Civil Liberties, Justice<br>and Home Affairs | 60   |
| <b>ENVI</b> Environment, Public Health and<br>Food Safety                            | 69   | <b>AFCO</b> Constitutional Affairs                       | 25   |
| <b>ITRE</b> Industry, Research and Energy  | 67   | <b>FEMM</b> Women's Rights and<br>Gender Equality        | 35   |
| <b>IMCO</b> Internal Market and Consumer<br>Protection                               | 40   | <b>PETI</b> Petitions                                    | 35   |

# How to advocate in the EU?

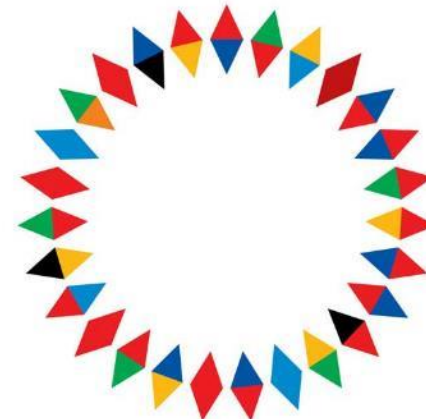
And the intergroups!



# How to advocate in the EU?

## The Council of the EU

- The most opaque institution.
- Need to work within the interests of the Presidency- the Agenda
- Work at national level: Ministries send the political mandates, Permanent Representations prepare the work.



**EU2022.CZ**

Czech Presidency of the Council  
of the European Union

# What is EDF?

- Independent umbrella organisation joining other organisations of and for persons with disabilities in Europe
- Established **25 years** ago to campaign for the rights of persons with disabilities in Europe
- **104 members** organisations (National organisations, European NGOs)
- Registered in **Belgium**, secretariat in Brussels, Belgium



# What do we do?



- Advocate for the rights of **100 million persons with disabilities in Europe** and globally;
- Advocating for the implementation of the **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**;
- Work with EU institutions, Council of Europe and across Europe.



# What we do

1. Advocacy towards the EU, the Council of Europe, and the UN to fully implement the **UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD)** & related areas
2. Member of the EU's **Independent Monitoring Framework** for the UN CRPD
3. Involvement in **projects** which bring added value in progressing the UN CRPD in the European region
4. Secretariat of the **Disability Intergroup** of the European Parliament

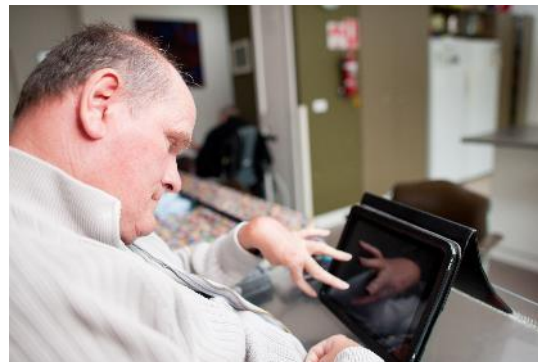
# Areas of work



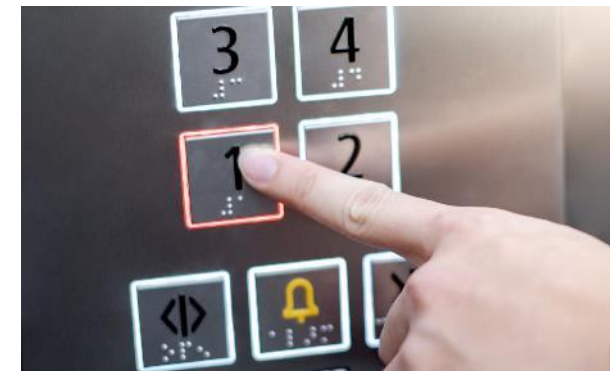
Human rights



Accessibility



New Technologies  
& Innovation



Built environment



Transport



Standardisation



Employment &  
Social Services



International  
Cooperation

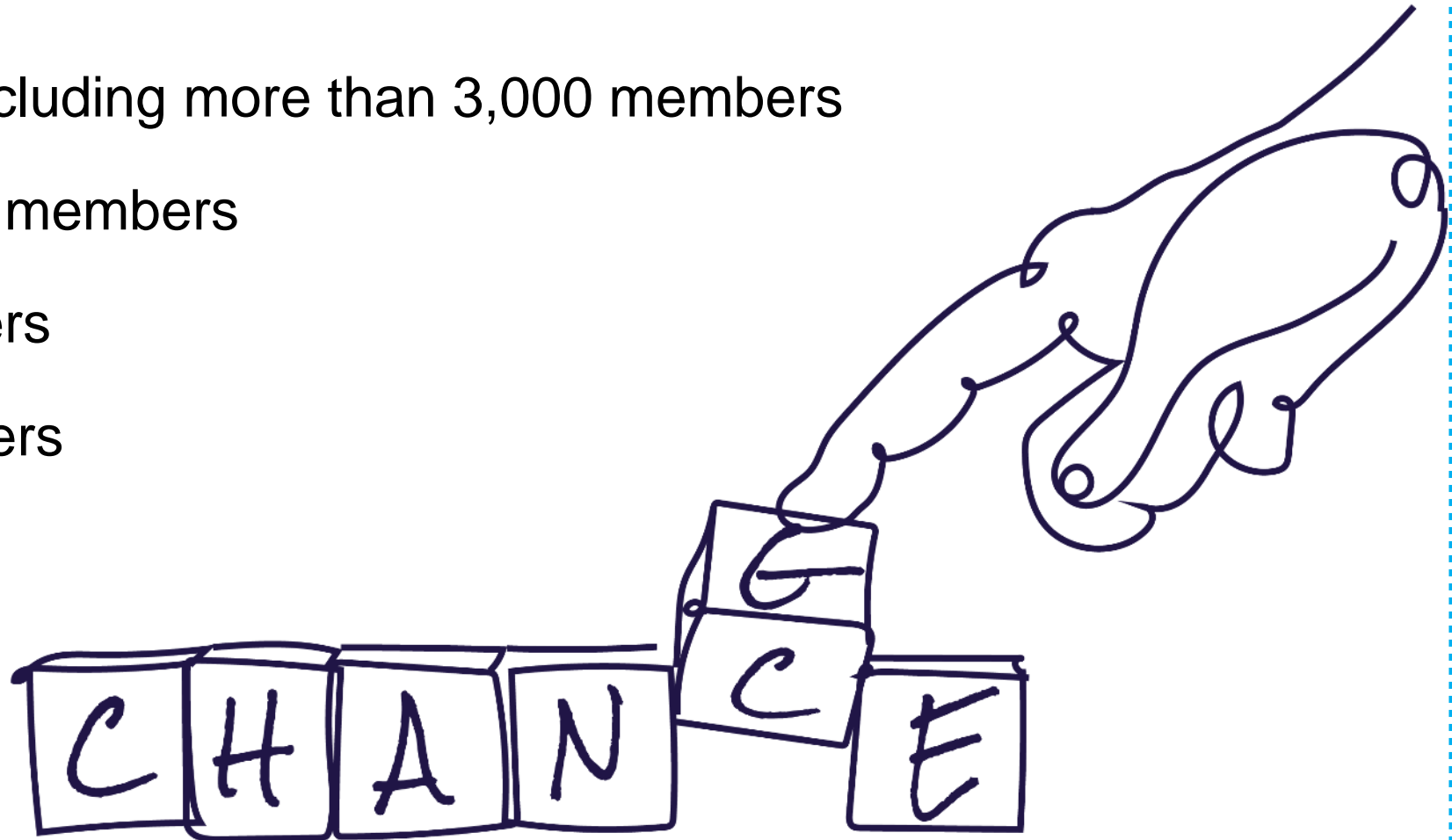
# Some of our successful advocacy

- Law on **accessibility of public sector websites**
- **European Accessibility Act** (law on accessibility of products and services)
- **European Disability Rights Strategy**
- Standards on **accessible built environment**



# Who are our members?

- **104 members** including more than 3,000 members
- Full and ordinary members
- Observer members
- Associate members



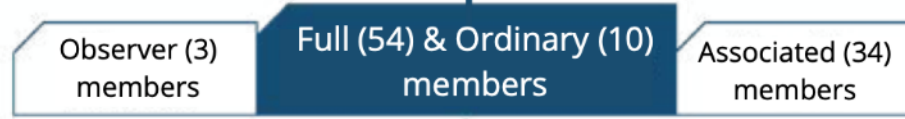
# How do we work? Governance



- **Annual General Assembly**
- **Board** elected every 4 years
- **Executive committee** elected by the Board every 4 years
- **Committees of the Board:**
  1. Human rights committee
  2. Social Policy Committee
  3. Youth Committee
  4. Women's Committee

# OUR STRUCTURE

101 Members



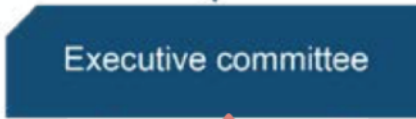
ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

elects every 4 years



1. **Human Rights and Non Discrimination** Committee
2. **Youth** Committee
3. **Social Policy & Inclusion** Committee
4. **Women's** Committee

elects every 4 years



EDF Secretariat

Email expert groups

Communication & Information

- Built environment
- Information and communication technology (ICT)
- Standardisation
- Transport,
- Persons with disabilities requiring more intensive support
- European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF)
- International Cooperation
- SDGs
- Refugees and Migrants with disabilities
- Task Force on the Accessibility Act (temporary)
- Council of Europe
- Inclusive Education
- CRPD and Human Rights

- Newsletters: Members Mailing, Disability Voice, Women ´s Voice, Global Action
- Reports/ Toolkits
- Events/ Workshops
- Meetings
- Website: members access

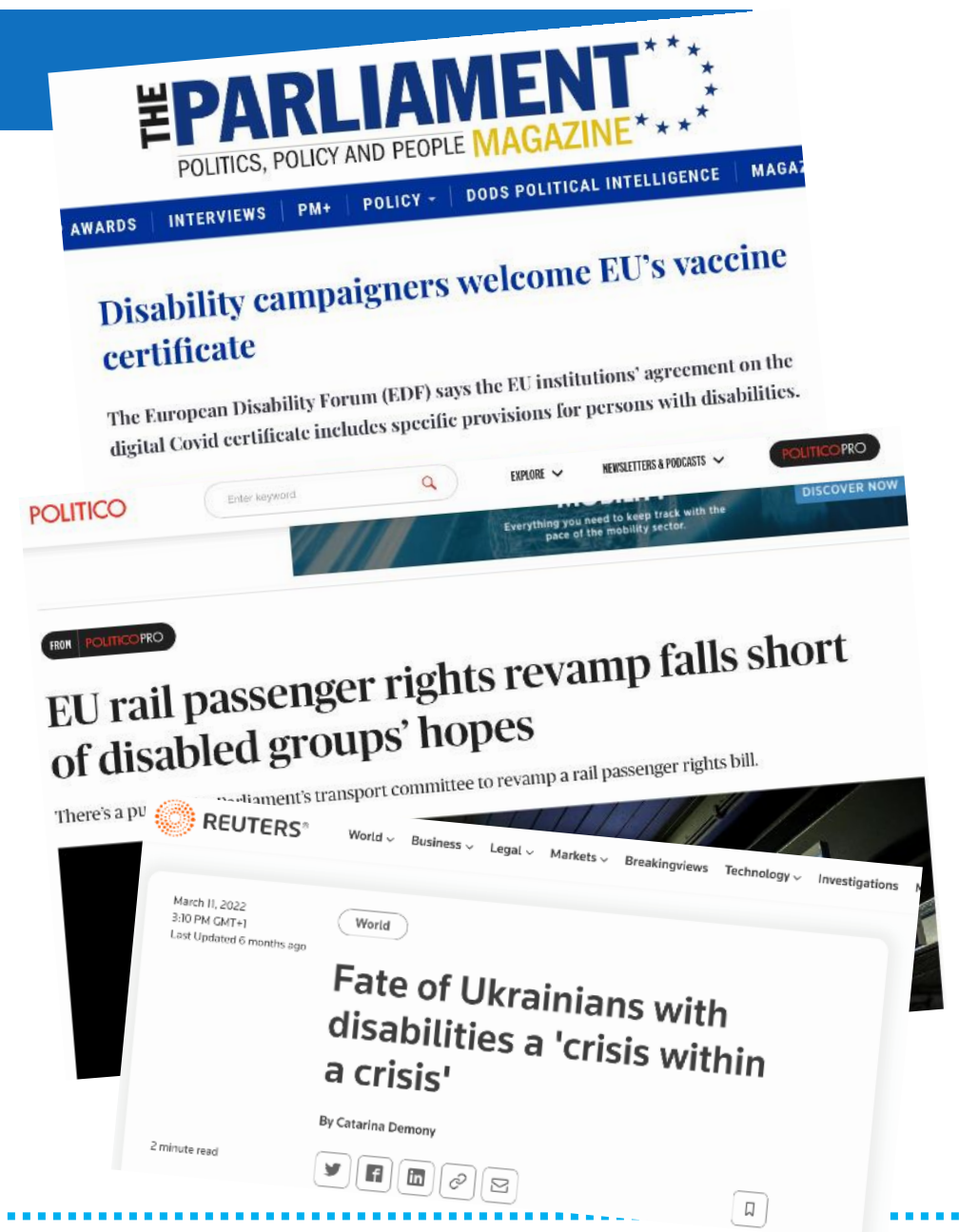
# Email expert groups

**Shape** our position on specific issues, and **provide** a source of shared learning and **support** within our membership. The email expert groups are focusing on the following working areas:

- Built environment
- Information and communication technology (ICT)
- Standardisation
- Transport,
- Persons with disabilities requiring more intensive support
- European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF)
- SDG & International Cooperation
- Refugees and Migrants with disabilities
- Task Force on the Accessibility Act (temporary)
- Council of Europe
- Inclusive Education
- CRPD and Human Rights

# Secretariat

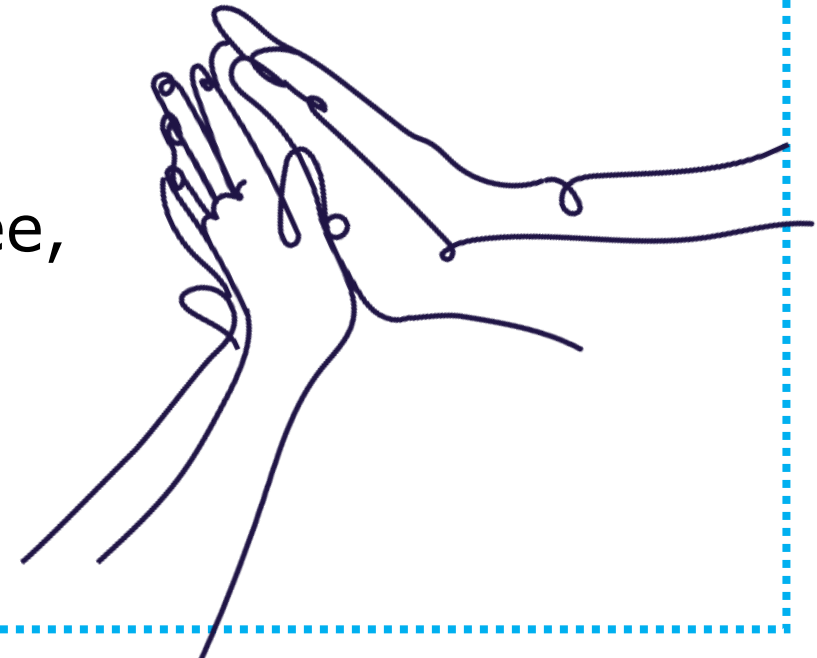
- Based in Brussels:
  - Management of the network
  - Policy and advocacy
  - Capacity building
  - Communication
  - International Cooperation





# Internal Communication

- Members area on the website
- Email communication with all committees
- Members mailing: a weekly newsletter sent every Thursday
- Online meetings
- Governing body meetings (Executive Committee, Board Meetings and Annual General Assembly including all staff)



# External Communication

- Disseminating advocacy campaigns and raising awareness
- Coordinating communication initiatives and engaging with members, partners and EU institutions.



- Managing:
  - Social media (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn)
  - Accessible website
  - Disability Voice: our monthly newsletter
  - Getting attention of the media

# Some of our current campaigns

- [Supporting Ukrainians with disabilities](#)
- [Political Participation](#) of persons with disabilities
- Impact of AI and new technologies on persons with disabilities.
- De-institutionalisation;
- [End forced sterilisation of women and girls with disabilities](#)
- European Disability Card, AccessibleEU centre
- Cost of living crisis
- Climate change



# What can you do?

- Analyse your national problem: Is the EU the correct framework?
  - If yes, contact EDF!
  - If not: Can the EU institutions, or other DPOs help you?
- You can talk to your MEPs, send a petition to the European Parliament, you can share your problems in related consultations...



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# Thank you for your attention

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