DOC-BOARD-23-03-04

# Policy update

**Document for information and discussion**

## Purpose of this item

The purpose of this document is to give an overview on the current, upcoming and most important policy and advocacy campaigns of EDF. This includes ongoing legislative procedures at EU level, and key campaigns of the European disability movement.

## Questions for the Board

* Do you agree with the below list of campaigns as well as EDF’s approach to them?
* Is there any other important policy development EDF should be following?
* How can EDF support you in getting involved in the below list of policy activities?

## European Disability Rights Strategy 2021-2030

EDF continues following closely the implementation of the [European Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030](https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1484). We find useful the Commission [monitoring framework to follow the fulfilment of the actions](https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1552&langId=en).

Most of the 2022 actions were completed, including 2 of the 7 flagship initiatives, namely the establishment of the AccessibleEU centre (see below for more information), and the launch of the [Disability Employment Package](https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1597&langId=en) (see below for more information too).

It is worth highlighting the publication of a [thorough study on social protection](https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=1135&furtherNews=yes&newsId=10493) and services for persons with disabilities to examine good practices in 35 countries on disability benefits, old-age income, health insurance, cash and non-cash benefits as well as on extra-costs due to disability. This can be very useful for European and national advocacy concerning social policies. EDF secretariat published a [summary of this study on social protection](https://www.edf-feph.org/report-social-protection-schemes-for-persons-with-disabilities-across-europe/).

On the downside, however, the Commission did not fulfil, and will probably not fulfil anytime soon, the launch of the inventory of assets in rail infrastructure, aiming at identifying the accessibility barriers in train stations.

Concerning the [Disability Platform](https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/expert-groups-register/screen/expert-groups/consult?lang=en&groupID=3820), in which EDF and many of our European members participate, it did meet three times in 2022, but did not organise the planned public event on legal capacity. This year, the Platform adopted its work programme for 2023 (see Annex 1 of this document), including a public event – which has been confirmed – that will be co-organised by the Swedish Agency for Participation concerning disability strategies. The event will take place in Brussels on June 27th.

Lastly, the Platform continues with its sub-groups of experts to follow the development of some of the flagship initiatives, such as the AccessibleEU centre, the Disability Card, and the Employment Package. This year, the Platform will create a sub-group for the Guidelines on deinstitutionalisation (see below). EDF and other Platform members submit their suggestions through these sub-groups.

## Disability Card

The call for evidence (former roadmap) for the Disability Card proposal was open until January 9th. The reply from the disability movement was a success, with 273 responses, many of those following [the response from EDF](https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/13517-European-disability-card/F3372732_en) as a basis.

Now we’re in [the consultation process](https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/13517-European-disability-card_es), open until the 5th of May. EDF prepared a response to the consultation, and recommends all EDF members to reply to this open public consultation and use EDF’s response as reference.

At the same time, the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) is working in its Opinion about the Disability Card, that will also be used as an input for the Commission. It will be approved at the end of April by the EESC Plenary.

Afterwards, the Commission will publish the impact assessment report in July, in order to prepare the launch of the legislative proposal in November.

The Parliament is already becoming more interested, so they will probably prepare research to back their position, and we will eventually start contacting MEPs to support our recommendations.

At that point, it is important for every national member to talk to their governments so as to ensure a correct approach by the Council. Given the end of the legislative term both of the Parliament and Commission is in 2024, if the process slows down there is a risk of having to wait longer than expected.

You can read [EDF position paper on the Disability Card](https://www.edf-feph.org/publications/edf-position-on-the-european-disability-card-2022/) and find further updates in the [recently opened dedicated website](https://www.edf-feph.org/eu-disability-card/).

Contact: Marie and Álvaro.

## AccessibleEU centre

The European Commission selected the consortium led by ONCE Foundation to create the AccessibleEU centre. EDF will be represented in its European network of accessibility experts. National accessibility experts have been selected as well. These national experts will participate in events at national level (from 2 to 4 events per year).

The consortium members are preparing the public launch of the centre which may take place before the summer (publication of the website and the first resources as well). There might be a European event organised by the AccessibleEU centre during the second half of the year.

Contact: Alejandro.

## Employment Package

The EU Disability Employment package consists of six objectives. EDF is involved in the elaboration of all deliverables through our involvement in the Disability Platform sub-group dedicated to the package. The actions of the employment package are:

1. Strengthening capacities of employment and integration services: The Commission has already delivered its [Practitioner toolkit on strengthening Public Employment Services to improve the labour market outcomes of persons with disabilities](https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=738&langId=en&pubId=8505&furtherPubs=yes) and run its [webinar on improving labour market outcomes](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dJcz0JP120Q).
2. Promoting hiring perspectives through affirmative action and combatting stereotypes: EDF gave input to the Catalogue of Positive Actions planned for this theme, set to be launched later this year.
3. Ensuring reasonable accommodation at work: EDF is preparing input to this action and will join the disability platform sub-group meeting dedicated to this in May. Deliverable planned for 2023.
4. retaining persons with disabilities in employment - preventing disabilities associated with chronic diseases: Deliverables planned for release towards the end of 2023.
5. Securing vocational rehabilitation schemes in case of sickness or accidents: Deliverables planned for release towards the end of 2023.
6. Exploring quality jobs in sheltered employment and pathways to the open labour market: EDF Met with the German consultancy in charge of conducting research on this, to explain our concerns with sheltered workshops and the need to reflect this in the research. Deliverable planned for release towards the end of 2023.

Contact: Haydn.

## Guidance on independent living and Inclusion in the Community

This year the European Commission will produce Guidance on Independent living and inclusion in the community for the Member States. It is one of the flagship initiatives of the Disability Strategy. EDF led a taskforce within the European Expert Group on the Transition from Institutional to Community-based Care (EEG) to create an [advocacy document on the proposed EU Guidance on Independent Living and Inclusion in the Community (PDF)](https://deinstitutionalisationdotcom.files.wordpress.com/2022/09/eu-guidance-on-independent-living-and-inclusion-in-the-community-1.pdf-1.pdf).

We identified the person within DG Employment responsible for overseeing the new guidelines and, in early November, EDF met with them to talk through our vision for the guidelines. DG Employment were also sent the EEG advocacy document in order to include certain proposals into the final Guidance. Following a request from DG EMPL and the agreement of EDF’s Executive Committee, we are now preparing an EDF position paper.

Contact: Haydn.

## European Semester process

In January and February this year, EDF sent advocacy documents to the Commission’s EU Semester desk officers working on a number of EU Member States. The Member States we selected were the ones that showed particularly worrying data in the areas of employment, poverty and social exclusion, and housing among persons with disabilities. The Member States we focused on were Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Lithuania, Romania, Spain and Sweden. We communicated this through the Board Mailing with the updated contact details for the desk officers working on each Member State. Members were invited to complement any information we had sent with their own evidence, or to add any issues they found particularly worrying in their country. In late 2022 we had a training webinar to explain how the Semester works and what are the best techniques for exerting influence.

In May the Country Reports and Country-Specific Recommendations from the Commission to the Member States will be launched. We will analyse them all and report back to the members on what has been mentioned for their countries, so that these can be used for national advocacy.

You can read [our analysis of the 2022 country’s specific recommendations](https://www.edf-feph.org/content/uploads/2022/05/EDF_response_country_specific_recommendations_2022-2.docx).

Contact: Haydn.

## Equality and non-discrimination

The **proposal for a Horizontal Equal Treatment Directive** is still blocked in the Council of the EU. It is on the agenda of the Swedish presidency but no meeting took place yet.

In December, the European Commission proposed [**two directives** **on standards for equality bodies**](https://www.edf-feph.org/european-commission-proposes-free-easier-access-to-equality-bodies/). The proposals align with the EDF [position paper](https://www.edf-feph.org/publications/edf-position-paper-on-equality-bodies-legislation/). The text refers to the CRPD and Article 11(3) of the two directives put specific obligations on the Member States to ensure accessibility and reasonable accommodation. EDF will propose strengthening the later provisions, as well as minor proposals on intersectionality in the negotiation in the European Parliament.

Contact: Marine.

## Access to justice

The proposed [**Regulation on judicial cooperation and access to justice**](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52021PC0759)is discussed in the European Parliament. The Council adopted its [general approach](https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2022/12/09/digital-justice-council-adopts-negotiating-mandates-on-two-proposals-to-digitalise-judicial-cooperation-and-access-to-justice/) in December 2022, only adding a minor reference to the CRPD in the recital. The [European Parliament is adopting its position](https://www.edf-feph.org/eu-regulation-on-digitalisation-of-judicial-cooperation-must-respect-disability-rights/). Several amendments on accessible and procedural accommodation for persons with disabilities were added, based on EDF’s [proposed amendments](https://www.edf-feph.org/publications/position-paper-on-proposed-amendments-to-the-eu-regulation-on-the-digitalisation-of-justice/).

Contact: Marine.

## Women and girls with disabilities

### Directive combating gender-based violence

The [proposed Directive on combating violence against women and domestic violence](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52022PC0105) continues to be discussed in the European Parliament and Council. The “first reading” is still ongoing in the Council’s Working Party on Cooperation in Criminal Matters (COPEN). Some Member States proposed references to accessibility for victims with disabilities and targeted training for professionals, based on EDF’s [proposed amendments](https://www.edf-feph.org/publications/directive-on-combating-violence-against-women-and-domestic-violence-proposal-for-amendments/). The European Parliament is negotiating its position. The [draft report](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/CJ01-PR-739730_EN.pdf) presented in December includes the criminalisation of forced sterilisation, specific trainings and accessibility for victims with disabilities.

Contact: Marine

### Pay Transparency Directive

The [Directive on Pay Transparency](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/commissions/empl/inag/2022/12-21/CJ21_AG(2022)740543_EN.pdf) was agreed on in January. It is not yet published in the Official Journal. The agreed text includes a new article 9a on accessibility of information which requires employers to “provide any information shared with workers or applicants for employment in a format accessible to workers with disabilities which takes into account their particular needs.” Persons and women with disabilities are mentioned in several parts of the recital. Unfortunately, the Directive does not require employers to collect data disaggregated by disability.

Contact: Marine

### Harmful practices against women

The Commission aim to adopt Recommendations on prevention of harmful practices, including issues such as forced sterilisation, forced pregnancy, female genital mutilation and forced marriage. The publication of the recommendation has however been suspended until further notice.

Contact: Marine

### Ratification of the Istanbul Convention by the EU

After years of advocacy, the Council of the European Union is [ready to go forward with the accession of the EU to the Istanbul Convention](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=6f529259e6&e=4cd8016209) on combating violence against women and domestic violence. The Council will confirm EU accession after receiving the consent of the European Parliament, in the Justice and Home affairs meeting in Luxembourg on 8-9th of June.

Contact: Marine

## Political participation

The European Parliament adopted a resolution including a proposal for a Regulation on a [**new EU electoral law**](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/A-9-2022-0083_EN.html). You can [read a summary of the main improvements for persons with disabilities in this EDF article](https://www.edf-feph.org/the-eu-parliament-proposes-a-new-electoral-law-ensuring-the-political-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities/). Last October, the [Council General Affairs discussed this proposal](https://video.consilium.europa.eu/event/en/26226), but it does not seem there will be consensus among Member States to progress on this new EU electoral law.

On the other hand, there has been more progress concerning the **Mobile EU citizens Directives**. These are setting the common rules for mobile EU citizens to [vote in the European Parliament elections](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52021PC0732), and in the [municipal elections](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52021PC0733). Mobile EU citizens are non-national EU citizens living in another Member State. EDF has prepared and disseminated a [position paper containing proposals for amendments to both Directives](https://www.edf-feph.org/publications/edf-position-paper-on-mobile-eu-citizens-directives/) to the European Parliament and permanent representation offices of Member States. We have met with Italy and Spain and they have raised our concerns in the Council working group following these.

The Parliament adopted in plenary its position about the Mobile EU citizens Directives, including most of EDF suggested amendments. Unfortunately, the Parliament does not have a co-legislator role in these legislations, but the Council must take into consideration the Parliament’s opinion. [You can read a summary of the Parliament position in EDF website](https://www.edf-feph.org/european-parliament-defends-political-rights-of-mobile-eu-citizens-with-disabilities/).

As a separate initiative, the Commission is working with Member States on a compendium of **good practices for accessible elections**, but EDF has not yet been consulted, even if we made a presentation and distributed our [6th Human Rights Report on political participation](https://www.edf-feph.org/publications/human-rights-report-2022-political-participation-of-persons-with-disabilities/).

Contact: Alejandro and Markaya.

## Social Policies

### Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive

On June 21st the EU reached an agreement on the [Directive on Corporate Sustainability Reporting (CSRD).](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32022L2464) The final agreement includes vital advances proposed and advocated by EDF and its members for what non-financial activities companies will be obliged to report on. Companies will need to include within their reports information about employment and inclusion of persons with disabilities, describing their diversity policies and how they abide with the respect for their rights established in the CRPD. Also, this information will have to be provided in accessible formats.

EDF followed the development of recommended reporting standards by the European Financial Reporting Advisory Group (EFRAG) and tried to influence them. The recommendations reflected very well what EDF had been advocating for. We are now in the process of trying to ensure the European Commission follows these recommendations in their formal creation of reporting standards. These should be finalised this summer.

Contact: Haydn.

### Directive on corporate sustainability due diligence

The Due Diligence Directive serves a similar function to the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive, but focuses specifically on rules for companies to respect human rights and environment in global value chains.

While the [Commission proposal](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52022PC0071) includes reference to the need for companies to respect the provisions of the CRPD in their global value chains, the Council, in its position, is pushing to delete this. EDF is working with the rapporteurs in the European Parliament to ensure that, in the trilogue negotiations between the Parliament and Council, the reference to the CRPD is retained.

The Parliament is planning to adopt its position in plenary in May this year, after which the negotiations with the Council will begin.

Contact: Haydn.

## Cost of living crisis – Minimum income

After the approval of the [Board resolution](https://www.edf-feph.org/publications/prioritising-persons-with-disabilities-in-the-action-against-inflation-and-energy-costs/) in November, new initiatives are emerging. The main one is the launch, through the Social Platform, of a campaign aiming for a Minimum Income Directive, for which EDF requests attention to maintain disability related support. Following this campaign, the European Parliament approved, last 15th of March, [a Resolution requesting Member States to set up minimum income schemes](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2023-0076_EN.html), which can be considered the first main step towards this direction.

Besides this, the Petitions Committee (PETI) of the European Parliament is preparing a research on “Targeted measures for persons with disabilities to cope with the cost of living crisis”, after our request last year. This study will be ready by November 2023.

Contact: Álvaro.

## Accessibility

### European Accessibility Act

By March 2023, there were still 8 EU countries which have not notified the European Commission about the transposition of the European Accessibility Act. You can [see the list of countries in Eur-lex website](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/NIM/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2019.151.01.0070.01.ENG).

The Commission launched infringement procedures against the countries that did not transpose the Act by its deadline (28 June 2022) and is carrying a completeness and conformity check to verify that the notified national measures fulfil the requirements of the Act.

EDF secretariat has been supporting EDF members through peer-support meetings, and from what we know, most countries have taken a minimalistic approach as for the Accessibility Act at national level. This means that no country has gone beyond the scope of the European legislation. Two peer-support meetings for EDF members are foreseen in June and December 2023.

In the meantime, the European Standards Organisations have accepted the [European Commission Mandate 587](https://ec.europa.eu/growth/tools-databases/mandates/index.cfm?fuseaction=search.detail&id=613) requesting the following standardisation activities in support of the Accessibility Act:

* Revision of the EN 301 549 on ICT accessibility
* Revision of the EN 17161 on Accessibility following a Design for All approach
* Revision of the EN 17210 on Accessibility and usability of the built environment
* New standard on non-ICT information (e.g., information on paper, in the product itself or in the package)
* New standard on support services for customers of products and services.
* New standard on ensuring accessibility and interoperability of the European emergency number 112.

EDF plans to actively engage in the development of these standards and recommends all EDF members to get involved as well.

Contact: Daniel and Alejandro.

## Web Accessibility Directive evaluation

Last year France and Cyprus finally published their monitoring report on the implementation of the Web Accessibility Directive, a year behind schedule. [All Member States monitoring reports](https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/web-accessibility-directive-monitoring-reports) are now online.

The European Commission published a [summary of the 2021 consultation results](https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12537-Accessible-web-&-digital-content-for-people-with-disabilities-review-of-EU-rules/public-consultation_en) in May 2022 and their [formal evaluation report](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=SWD:2022:410:FIN) in December 2022, with [executive summaries available in English, German and French](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=SWD:2022:411:FIN). Our [WAI-CooP project](https://www.edf-feph.org/projects/wai-coop-project/) continues to look into issues arising from the implementation of the directive while the [WAI-CooP website with Frequently Asked Questions about the directive](https://www.web-directive.eu/) went public a year ago.

As separate initiative though related to the Web Accessibility Directive, the European Commission finally published its much-awaited [**web accessibility action plan 2022-2025**](https://wikis.ec.europa.eu/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=62259557) at the end of last year, but did not involve us in its development. [Our analysis of the plan](https://www.edf-feph.org/a-look-at-the-european-commission-web-accessibility-action-plan/) found that some of the core recommendations the EU Ombudsman made to the European Commission 5 years ago appear to have been missed, including the need to prioritise accessibility of online tools through which the public interacts with the Commission (e.g. complaint procedures or public consultations).

Contact: Carine.

## Green Deal

### Energy Performance of Buildings Directive

We continue our work concerning the revision of the [**Energy Performance of Buildings Directive**](https://ec.europa.eu/energy/topics/energy-efficiency/energy-efficient-buildings/energy-performance-buildings-directive_en)to ensure that accessibility is included in the assessment of energy performance of buildings. On February 15th, the [European Parliament adopted its position](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/A-9-2023-0033_EN.html) and included a few references to accessibility and also to energy poverty. The report was sent to the Council and negotiations between the EU institutions will start soon.

Contact: Marie.

### Social Climate Fund

The European Parliament and the Council are negotiating in the trialogues the proposed text for the [Social Climate Fund](https://oeil.secure.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/popups/ficheprocedure.do?reference=2021/0206(COD)&l=en). We also published a [common statement on the Social Climate Fund with the Just Transition Alliance](https://www.edf-feph.org/joint-statement-on-the-social-climate-fund/), of which we are a member. On 8 February 2023, a [provisional agreement](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/commissions/envi/inag/2023/02-08/CJ39_AG(2023)742302_EN.pdf) was reached among EU institutions and it mentions that the national plans for the Fund should uphold and promote disability rights and accessibility.

Contact: Marie.

## Digital Transition

### Artificial Intelligence Act

Regarding the Regulation on [**Artificial Intelligence**](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1623335154975&uri=CELEX%3A52021PC0206) (AI), EDF has published a [position paper on regulating AI](https://www.edf-feph.org/publications/disability-perspective-on-regulating-artificial-intelligence/), based on which we have developed proposals for amendments to the Regulation.

EDF works with digital rights organisations (EDRi) and other civil society advocates to propose joint amendments to the Members of the European Parliament and the Council, based on our position and a [joint civil society call to put fundamental rights first in the Artificial Intelligence Act](https://www.edf-feph.org/civil-society-and-edf-call-on-the-eu-to-put-fundamental-rights-first-in-the-artificiai-intelligence-act/). The European Parliament has included most of the proposed amendments in its draft position and in different amendments. The Council of the EU has failed to include our demands [in its position](https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2022/12/06/artificial-intelligence-act-council-calls-for-promoting-safe-ai-that-respects-fundamental-rights/), adopted last December.

MEPs are currently discussing and negotiating compromise amendments. EDF has stressed the need to support the amendment that all AI systems, regardless of whether they are classified as low or high risk, must be subject to mandatory accessibility requirements.

Both the Swedish Presidency and MEPs seem keen for the negotiations to start during the current Presidency. A vote at committee level in the Parliament is likely to happen in April.

Contact: Kave.

### Digital ID Regulation

The European Commission has proposed a [revised regulation on digital identification and authentication services](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52021PC0281) which, positively, includes clear accessibility requirements linked to the European Accessibility Act. EDF recommended the Parliament to keep these provisions, and the Parliament has recently set its [position concerning the Digital-ID regulation](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/A-9-2023-0038_EN.html). Positively, the [Council also kept these provisions in its position](https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-14959-2022-INIT/en/pdf), so we are confident that, after the negotiations on other issues, the adopted text will ensure that digital identity services, and digital wallets will be accessible to persons with disabilities.

Contact: Alejandro.

### Audiovisual Media Services Directive (AVMSD)

By the end of 2022, Member States were obliged to report to the European Commission on the implementation of accessibility requirements of the AVMSD (article 7.1). The Commission plans to publish a report on the implementation of the AVMSD by July 2023 and will cooperate with the Council of Europe to draft a report on the implementation of accessibility provisions in the different Member States.

Ireland was the last country to transpose the AVMSD, notifying the Commission in February 2023. The European Commission is now undergoing the correctness check of the adopted national legislation.

MEP Petra Kammerevert (former rapporteur of this legislation) is leading an opinion report to assess the implementation of this Directive. EDF was invited to a closed meeting with her, other MEPS, and stakeholders to discuss the AVMSD implementation at national level. EDF later provided a [proposal of amendments](https://www.edf-feph.org/content/uploads/2023/03/EDF-AMs-to-CULT-report-on-implementation-AVMSD_Final.docx) to the Report highlighting the extreme lack of ambition of certain countries as for media accessibility, and making recommendations to improve its implementation. The work on the report continues at a committee level and the adoption in plenary is foreseen for May 2023.

EDF will organize [a webinar the 11th of April](https://www.edf-feph.org/events-slug/audio-visual-media-services-directive-avmsd-has-it-made-progress-for-media-accessibility/) to discuss the transposition and implementation of the AVMSD, as well as the measures taken by the main stakeholders to ensure media accessibility.

Contact: Daniel.

## European Electronic Communications Code – emergency communication to the 112 number

The European Commission published a draft delegated act setting measures to ensure effective access to emergency services through emergency communications to the single European emergency number 112. EDF gave [feedback to this draft](https://www.edf-feph.org/better-access-to-the-single-european-emergency-number-112/), but unfortunately it was not considered in the [final delegated act.](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32023R0444&qid=1678723770679). We will continue working in the realm of the Accessibility Act standards to ensure that emergency communication to the single European emergency number 112 will be accessible to persons with disabilities.

Contact: Daniel.

## Transport

### Passengers’ Rights

During 2022, EDF provided input to both [the public and the targeted questionnaires](https://www.edf-feph.org/edf-feedback-to-the-public-consultation-on-passenger-rights/) of the Passenger Rights Evaluation. Throughout the process, the Commission disclosed potential new initiatives in this field which, for now, do not include a revision of the Regulation on Air Passengers’ Rights for persons with disabilities (1107/2006). Without underestimating the importance of the measures that the Commission is already considering for passengers in general (like better reimbursement or enforcement), EDF will start a campaign to push for a revision of Regulation 1107/2006 and address the existing gaps. A meeting with Commissioner for Transport Adina Vălean is foreseen on 3 May.

Contact: Daniel.

### Trans-European Networks

The European Commission launched the [revision of the Trans European Transport Network (**TEN-T Regulation**)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=COM:2021:812:FIN) in December 2021. The new proposal has strengthened accessibility and disability provisions in the TEN-T regulation, and we see our feedback during the consultations and discussion during the Rail conference of 2021 have had a positive influence on the proposal. In 2022, we sent our [position paper on TEN-T](https://www.edf-feph.org/publications/edf-position-paper-on-union-guidelines-for-the-development-of-the-trans-european-transport-network-ten-t/) as well as more detailed proposed amendments to the European Parliament and the Council.

The European Parliament’s Position is still at committee level, and EDF main amendments have been included in the text by MEPs. The Committee is now working on the compromise amendments with adoption in plenary still to be confirmed.

The Council of the EU adopted its position ([Common Approach](https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-15664-2022-INIT/en/pdf)) on 6 December 2022.

Contact: Daniel.

## International Cooperation

### Human Rights and Democracy Action Plan

The [EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy 2020-2024](https://www.eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/eu_action_plan_on_human_rights_and_democracy_2020-2024.pdf) is the third plan of the EU to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy, and the rule of law and the work of civil society organisations (CSOs) and human rights defenders worldwide. The EU delegations, the EU External Action Services and Member States Embassies are at the frontline of its implementation. CSOs, including DPOs have been consulted at various stages of its implementation. You can read its first [annual report](https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/eu-annual-reports-human-rights-and-democracy_en); the 2022 report will come out soon.

EDF works together with the International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC) on this policy file. Last December we jointly submitted [input to the mid-term review](https://www.edf-feph.org/publications/disability-rights-and-inclusion-in-the-eu-action-plan-on-human-rights-and-democracy/) of the Action Plan, which is expected in June 2023.

Contact: Giulia.

### Gender Action Plan III

The EU's [Action Plan on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in External Relations 2020-2025](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_2184) (GAP III) aims to accelerate progress on empowering women and girls, and safeguard gains made on gender equality during the 25 years since the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and its Platform for Action. The implementation is led by the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, DG International Partnership of the European Commission, and the EU delegations in the partner countries.

EDF raised to the European Commission that the EU GAP III country level implementation plans however do not systematically include an intersectional approach. Consultations with civil society on the GAP III implementation, including those at country level, often do not include the voices of women and girls with disabilities, including through providing accessibility and reasonable accommodation.

EDF works on this file together with IDDC and [CONCORD](https://concordeurope.org/). The latter is currently preparing an alternative report on the implementation of the GAP III, as an external evaluation. This alternative report will feed into the European Commission mid-term review of the GAP III that is ongoing. In November 2023, another structured dialogue with civil society is foreseen.

Contact: An-Sofie and Giulia

### EU Talent Pool

In September 2020, the European Union adopted a [New Pact on Migration and Asylum](http://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/promoting-our-european-way-life/new-pact-migration-and-asylum_en). It is a policy document that sets out the EU’s agenda on migration for the years to come and a package of legislative proposals and recommendations. [EDF published its recommendations for the Pact on Migration](https://www.edf-feph.org/content/uploads/2021/12/edf_input_new_pact_on_migration_and_asylum.pdf), as well as for the [Action plan on integration and inclusion of migrants and people of migrant background](https://www.edf-feph.org/publications/edfs-input-to-the-eu-action-plan-on-integration-and-inclusion-of-migrants-and-people-of-migrant-background/).

The latest initiative of this policy is the creation of an EU Talent Pool, an EU-wide matching tool to facilitate international recruitment to make the EU more attractive to skilled workers from non-EU countries, and to help employers find the talent they need. EDF recently [replied the call for evidence to create such platform](https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/13716-EU-Talent-Pool/F3388692_en) stressing the importance of accessibility so skilled workers with disabilities can benefit from it too. The Commission will present the proposal in last quarter of 2023.

Contact: An-Sofie.

### New Agenda on EU and Latin America and the Caribbean relations

In the [current EU-Latin American Strategic Partnership: state of play and ways forward](https://intranet.eulacfoundation.org/en/system/files/qa0217406enn.en_181.pdf), there is no specific mention of the inclusion of persons with disabilities or the CRPD. This year the European Commission is working on a new agenda for the relations between EU and the Latin American and Caribbean States, and in July there will be a summit of their heads of state and government.

In February 2023, together with RIADIS, EDF submitted [input into the consultation](https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/) for the New Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Contact: Giulia.

### EU Global Health Strategy

The EU published its new “[EU Global Health Strategy: Better Health for All in a](https://health.ec.europa.eu/publications/eu-global-health-strategy-better-health-all-changing-world_en) Changing World” on 30th November 2022. The strategy runs up to 2030. EDF welcomes the Strategy as it includes the rights of persons with disabilities in access to healthcare in the world and refers to the CRPD. This was not the case in the previous strategy**.**

The strategy aims to improve global health security and deliver better health for all in the world. The Strategy positions global health as an essential pillar of EU external policy. The strategy aims to guide EU action for ensuring better preparedness and response to health threats.

The Commission is currently setting up a monitoring framework for the Strategy.

Contact: An-Sofie.

## Council of Europe – withdrawal of the draft additional protocol to the Oviedo Convention (on involuntary treatment and placement in psychiatry)

In 2022 the Committee of Ministers temporarily suspended the adoption of the draft additional protocol to the Oviedo Convention regarding involuntary treatment and placement in psychiatry. The Committee of Bioethics was tasked to prepare draft recommendations on voluntary treatment. The outline of the draft recommendations was sent to EDF and discussed in the Committee meeting on 2nd November. EDF sent a joint position, prepared with our members (ENUSP, MHE, Inclusion Europe...) and partners, to the Committee and permanent representations of Member States in Strasbourg. A delegation from EDF also participated in the meeting. The next meeting will be in June 2023.

Contact: Marine.

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