**Poster that covers the whole document with the European Parliament of Persons with Disabilities logo together with the European Parliament and EDF logo.

**

**Guide of the Day**

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## **Introduction**

Dear Delegate,

Welcome to the 5th European Parliament of Persons with Disabilities. A day where the demands of the European disability movement - your demands – will be brought directly to some of the most important European decision-makers.

The European Union (EU) has the power to improve our lives and protect our rights. But it can only do so due to the activism and advocacies of its citizens. The ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Web Accessibility Directive, the European Accessibility Act and the upcoming proposal for an EU Disability Card were only possible because of your advocacy. This is why I want to thank you for your presence at this important event, which allows the European disability movement to show its united front and demonstrate to policymakers that we are here, and we deserve full equality.

This is also why I ask you to support us in adopting our manifesto. In it, we call for an inclusive future for persons with disabilities in the EU, with five key areas:

1. Guarantee the **participation of persons with disabilities in the political and public life** of the EU.
2. Realising a **Union of Equality** for persons with disabilities with the CRPD as its compass.
3. Becoming a **more social Europe**.
4. Embracing **accessibility** – allowing free movement in Europe.
5. **Protecting persons with disabilities** in Europe and beyond.

A united movement is a strong movement. This is why we also encourage you to meet and connect with delegates from other countries during the breaks and lunch.

Nothing about us without us!

**Yannis Vardakastanis**,

President of the European Disability Forum

## **Event “App”**

The European Parliament developed a digital mobile application “EP events” for its large-scale events – it is available on Google Play and Apple Store.

This app will be used for the European Parliament of Persons with Disabilities.

There, you will find the Wi-Fi code, updated agendas, information on the sessions, floor plans, relevant digital publications, accreditation information.

The app is available on Google Play and the Apple Store.

* You should have received an **e-mail with instructions** to download and also a unique and individual **8-digit code**.
* You must **download the app** and then, **use the code to have access** to the event information.

### **Links to download the app in your device:**

* [Google Play](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=eu.europa.publications.epevents&hl=en&gl=US)
* [Apple Store](https://apps.apple.com/us/app/ep-events/id1566142276)

### **You can also scan the following QR codes:**



Scan to download the app on **Apple Store**

Scan to download the app on **Google Play**

## **QR code to access the agenda of the EPPDAgenda**

You can find the final agenda with updated list of speakers on the event app and on our website.

Scan the QR code to consult the agenda on your phone.

**09:00 – 09:30 Introduction by the European Parliament’s Visitors Programme**

**09:30 – 10:00 Official opening**

* **Roberta Metsola**, President of the European Parliament
* **Yannis Vardakastanis**, President of the European Disability Forum (EDF)

**10:00 – 11:00 Breaking barriers - free movement and full participation**

Co-chaired by MEP **Salvatore De Meo**, chair of the Constitutional Affairs Committee, and **Humberto Insolera**, EDF executive committee member.

**Speakers:**

* **Vera Jourová**, European Commission Vice President Values and Transparency
* **Emilly O’reilly**, European Ombudsman
* **Karine Lalieux**, Minister of Pensions and Social Integration, Belgian Federal Government
* **Julia Farrugia Portelli**, Maltese Minister for Inclusion, Voluntary Organisations and Consumer Rights
* **Martin Conway**, member of the Irish Senate and vice chair of the Advisory Panel on political participation of persons with disabilities, Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe

**11:00 – 11:30 Break**

**11:30 – 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 2024 European elections**

**Speakers:**

* **Yannis Vardakastanis**, President of EDF
* **Alexandre Gomez**, Conseil Français des personnes Handicapées pour les affaires Européennes et internationales (CFHE) and EDF Youth Committee member

**12:30 – 14:00 Lunch break - for official delegates and MEPs only**

**14:00 – 15:00 Fighting for our rights - combating inequality, social exclusion and poverty**

Chaired by **MEP Marc Angel,** Vice President of the European Parliament, and **Nadia Hadad**, EDF Executive Committee.  
**Speakers:**

* **Helena Dalli**, European Commissioner for Equality
* **Tamara Byrne**, self-advocate for persons with intellectual disabilities, representing Inclusion Europe and the EDF Youth Committee
* **Carlos Susias**, President of the European Anti-Poverty Network
* **Tamás Kádár**, Co-Director of Equinet
* **Markus Schefer**, member of the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

**15:00 – 16:00 Plenary debate 2**

Interventions by Members of the European Parliament and delegates of the European disability movement.

**16:00 – 16:30 Break**

**16:30 – 17:15 Disability-inclusive resilience**

Co-chaired by **MEP Katrin Langensiepen,** chair of the CRPD network, and **Gunta Anca**, EDF Vice-President

**Speakers:**

* **Janez Lenarčič,** European Commissioner for Crisis Management
* **Valerii Sushkevych**, Head of the National Assembly of Persons with Disabilities (NAPD), Ukraine
* **Paola Albrito,** Director of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
* **Idriss Maïga Alzouma**,Chairperson, African Disability Forum (ADF) and Second Vice-President of the International Disability Alliance (IDA)

**17:15 – 18:00 Plenary debate 3**Interventions by Members of the European Parliament and delegates of the European disability movement

**18:00 – 18:30 Concluding remarks**

* **Dragoș Pîslaru**, chair of the European Parliament’s Employment and Social Affairs Committee
* **Pat Clarke**, EDF Vice President

## **The sessions**

### **Breaking the barriers: free movement and full participation**

During this session, we will discuss how full and independent participation of persons with disabilities in society can become a reality. Our participation is greatly shaped by our means to access the physical environment, transportation, information and digital technologies, and this is why the United Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) recognizes accessibility as a tool to guarantee equal opportunities and enjoy full rights and freedoms.

Even if free movement of persons is one of the core values of the European Union, persons with disabilities still face many barriers to studying, travelling or working abroad.

Similarly, European Citizens with disabilities still face obstacles to enjoying their right to vote and to stand as candidates in municipal and European elections on an equal basis with others.

**This session will focus on:**

* Poor accessibility of transport and the built environment.
* Lack of recognition of one’s disability between EU Member States.
* The upcoming proposal for the creation of an EU Disability Card.
* Group of 3 photos showing 3 of the most important themes of the session.
  On the left a wheelchair user helped to climb an architectural barrier. In the centre a picture of the Eu Disability Card and on the right a hand inserting a vote into a ballot box.Policies supporting participation in political and public life.

### **Fighting for our rights: combating inequality, social exclusion and poverty**

This second panel will look at issues caused by the barriers and lack of inclusion of persons with disabilities.

**We will discuss:**

* The growing problem of poverty
* Social exclusion
* Increased cost of living
* Independent living
* Inclusion in education and in the labour market

Throughout the discussion of these topics, we will discuss why certain groups, such as women and girls with disabilities and persons with high support needs, are particularly impacted.

We will look at solutions to these problems and what commitments policymakers can make to finally put an end to them.

Group of 3 photos showing the main topics of the session. 

On the right a visually impaired child reading a book in Braille. In the centre a young man with an intellectual disability working in a warehouse with a colleague and on the right a young woman with a prosthesis on her right hand at home enjoying music. 

### **Disability-inclusive resilience**

When disaster strikes, we repeatedly see that persons with disabilities are among those most impacted and least involved. They are missed out during evacuations. Emergency shelter, transport, and life-saving aid are often inaccessible. Disability inclusion is still seen as something for specialised organisations, with the result that humanitarian aid doesn’t reach them.

This panel will discuss the impact of these challenges during humanitarian crises on persons with disabilities. It will look at how prepared countries are regarding disability inclusion in emergency response and how involved persons with disabilities need to be in this work.

**This panel will discussed:**

* The COVID-19 pandemic
* The ongoing Russian aggression of Ukraine
* Inclusion of persons with disabilities in emergency preparedness
* Group of 3 images showing the most important topics of this session. 

  On the right is the face of a person wearing a mask used during the pandemic. In the centre, a photo of a Ukrainian bomb blast and the Ukrainian flag, and on the left, boxes of humanitarian aid.Commitments at international level on disability-inclusion and the role of the international disability movement