

European Parliament   
of Persons with Disabilities  
23 May 2023

Information and programme

Easy-to-read version

Easy-to-read is information  
that is written in a simple way   
so that all people can understand it.  
You can find more information  
about easy-to-read at:  
[www.inclusion-europe.eu/easy-to-read](http://www.inclusion-europe.eu/easy-to-read).

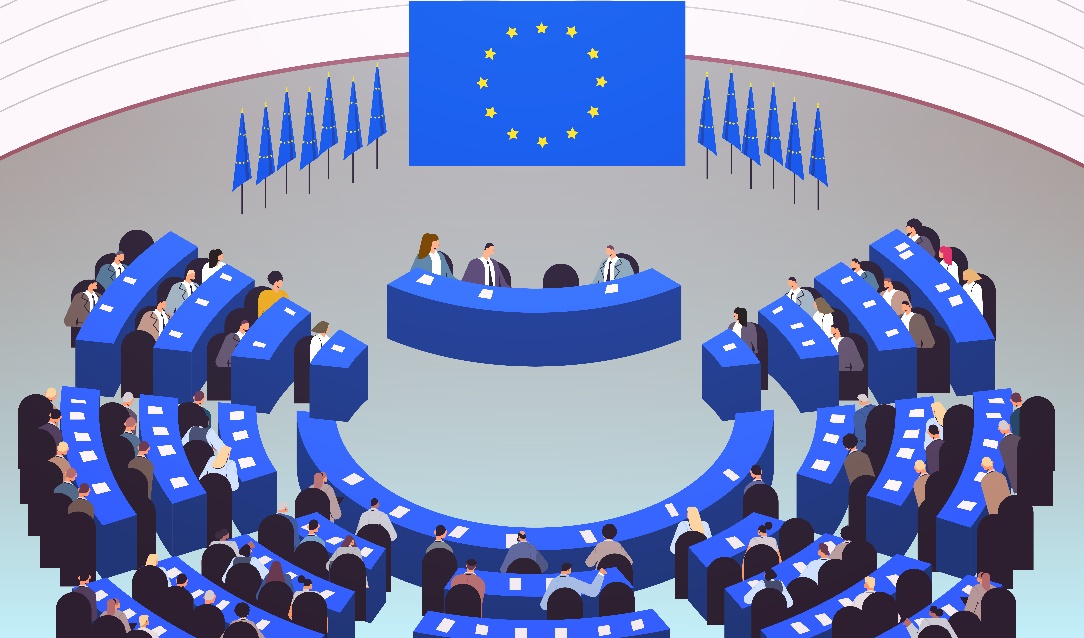
# Welcome to the European Parliament of Persons with Disabilities

This is a big meeting   
that brings together people with disabilities   
and people who make decisions in Europe.

In this meeting,

we can tell people who make decisions in Europe

what we want them to do for the rights of people with disabilities.

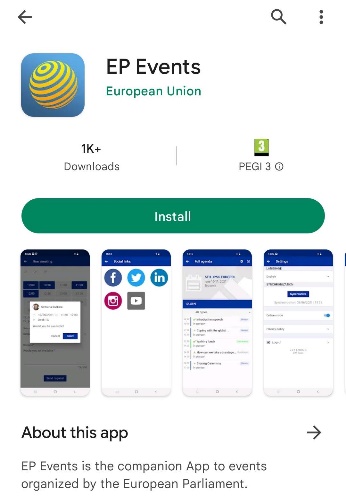


In the next few pages,   
you will find all the information   
and the programme of the meeting.

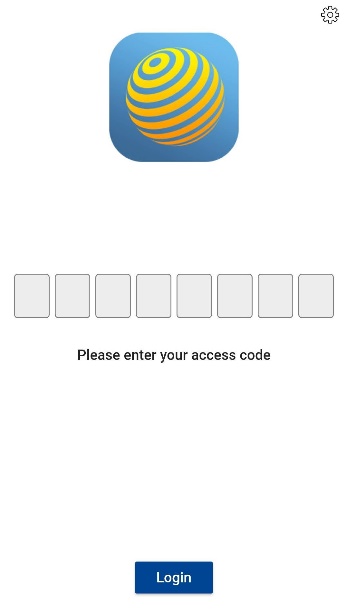
The difficult words are marked in **bold**  
and you can find their explanation   
at the end of this booklet on page 13.

# Getting information on your mobile phone

You can get all the information about the meeting   
on your mobile phone by downloading an app.

To download the app,  
you should have internet connection   
on your mobile phone.   
Then you should follow these steps:

1. Open Google Play or Apple Store   
   on your phone
2. Search for the app: ‘EP events’
3. Choose ‘Install’

Once the app is ready to use:

1. Open the app
2. Fill in the code to sign in.   
   You will get this code in your email sent  
   by the European Parliament before the meeting.

If you have problems to use the app,  
ask the staff at the information desk of the meeting   
for help.

# Programme of the day

09:00 - 09:30 Information about how the meeting will work

09:30 - 10:00 Welcome messages by:

* Roberta Metsola  
  President of the **European Parliament**
* Yannis Vardakastanis  
  President of the **European Disability Forum**

## 10:00 - 11:00 PART 1: THE RIGHT TO MOVE FREELY IN EUROPE

In this part, we will talk about   
how making things and services **accessible** in Europe   
will help people with disabilities   
to move freely and take part in the community.

We will also talk about   
the **European Disability Card**and the right to take part in the **European elections**.

Speakers:

* Salvatore De Meo  
  Member of the **European Parliament**
* Humberto Insolera  
  Member of the **European Disability Forum**
* Vera Jourová  
  Vice President of the **European Commission**  
   
* Emily O’Reilly  
  **European Ombudsman**  
   
* Karine Lalieux  
  Member of the government of Belgium   
  working on the rights of people with disabilities  
  
* Julia Farrugia Portelli  
  Member of the government of Malta   
  working on inclusion  
  
* Martin Conway  
  Member of the government of Ireland   
  working on the right to take part in the **elections**   
  

11:00 - 11:30 Break

11:30 - 12:25 Discussion among the speakers and the audience

12:25 - 12:30 Voting on the **Manifesto on the European elections**We will vote if we agree with what is written in the manifesto.

Speakers:

* Yannis Vardakastanis  
  President of the **European Disability Forum  
  **
* Alexandre Gomez  
  Vice President of the French organisation   
  of people with disabilities ‘CFHE’  
  

12:30 - 14:00 Break for lunch

## 14:00 - 15:00 PART 2: FIGHTING FOR EQUAL RIGHTS

In this part, we will talk about how to make sure   
that people with disabilities can live independently, study, work   
and have enough money to have a good life.

Speakers:

* Marc Angel   
  Member of the **European Parliament**
* Nadia Hadad  
  Member of the **European Disability Forum**
* Helena Dalli  
  **European Commissioner** working to make sure   
  all people in Europe have the same chances in life  
  
* Tamara Byrne  
  Member of **Inclusion Europe**   
  
* Carlos Susias  
  Member of the **European Anti-Poverty Network**
* Tamás Kádár  
  Member of **Equinet**
* Markus Schefer  
  Member of the **UN Committee on the Rights   
  of Persons with Disabilities**  
  

15:00 - 16:00 Discussion among the speakers and the audience

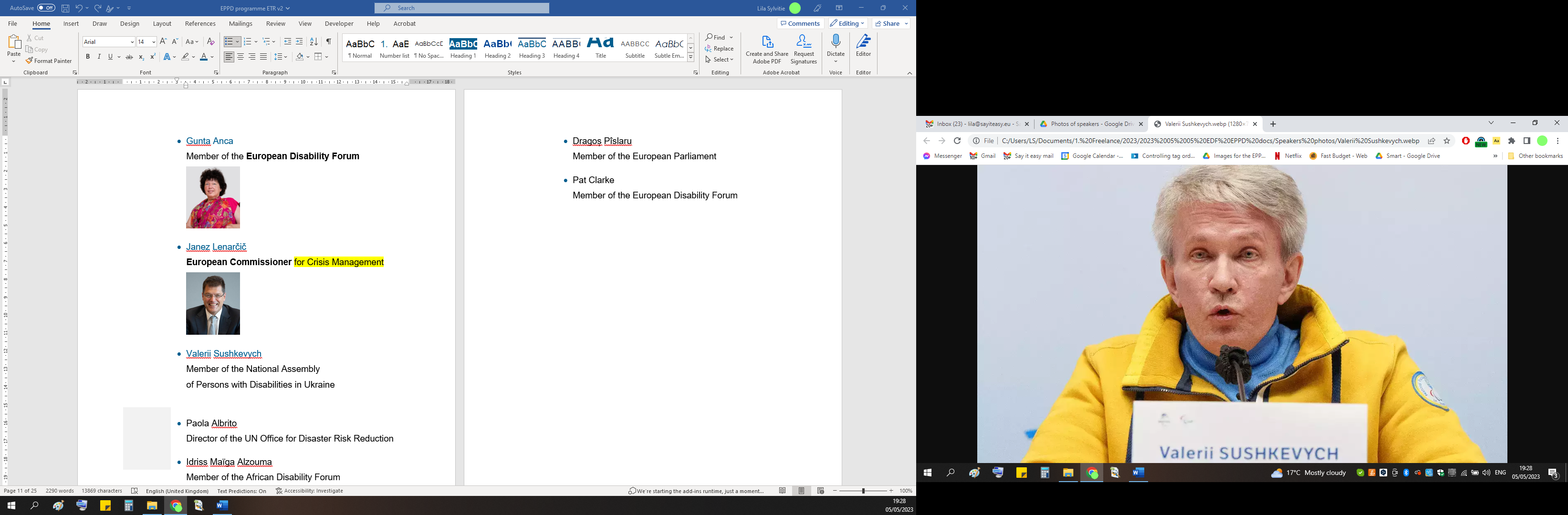
16:00 - 16:30 Break

## 16:30 - 17:15 PART 3: HELPING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN URGENT SITUATIONS

In urgent situations like a **pandemic** or war,   
people with disabilities are at higher risk of being left out.

In this part,   
we will talk about how to protect people with disabilities   
in these urgent situations.

Speakers:

* Katrin Langensiepen  
  Member of the **European Parliament**   
  
* Gunta Anca  
  Member of the **European Disability Forum**   
  
* Janez Lenarčič   
  **European Commissioner** working on protecting people in urgent situations of crisis  
  
* Valerii Sushkevych  
  Member of the **National Assembly   
  of Persons with Disabilities in Ukraine**  
  
* Paola Albrito   
  Director of the **UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction**  
  
* Idriss Maïga Alzouma  
  Member of the **African Disability Forum**

17:15 - 18:00 Discussion among the speakers and the audience

18:00 - 18:30 Closing of the meeting

Speakers:

* Dragoș Pîslaru  
  Member of the **European Parliament**   
  
* Pat Clarke  
  Member of the **European Disability Forum**   
  

# Explanation of difficult words

## Accessible

Things are accessible   
when they are easy to use

for people with disabilities and all people.

For example, when buildings have ramps

that people in wheelchairs can use to get in.

Or when information is easy to read   
and people with intellectual disabilities   
can understand it.

## African Disability Forum

The African Disability Forum   
is an organisation that works to protect   
the rights of people with disabilities in Africa.

## Equinet

‘Equinet’ is an organisation in Europe   
that fights for the right of all people   
to be treated fairly.

## European Anti-Poverty Network

The European Anti-Poverty Network   
is an organisation in Europe   
that works to make sure that all people in Europe   
have the chance to have a good life   
and to be part of the community.

In short, this organisation is called ‘EAPN’.

## European Commission

The European Commission

is the body of the **European Union**  
that suggests laws that make a difference

in the lives of people in Europe.

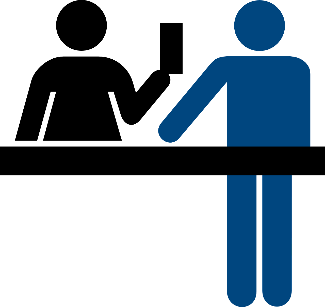
It also does all the day-to-day work

of the European Union.

## European Commissioner

A European Commissioner is a person   
who is responsible for a field of work   
at the **European Commission**.

## European Disability Card

The European Disability Card

Is a card that people with disabilities

can use when they visit or live in another country

of the **European Union**.

Thanks to this card,

countries can recognise their disability

and give them some advantages

in culture, sports and other activities.

For the moment,   
only a few countries in the European Union

use this card.

## European Disability Forum

The European Disability Forum   
is an organisation that protects the rights   
of all people with disabilities in Europe.   
In short, it is called ‘EDF’.

## European Disability Strategy

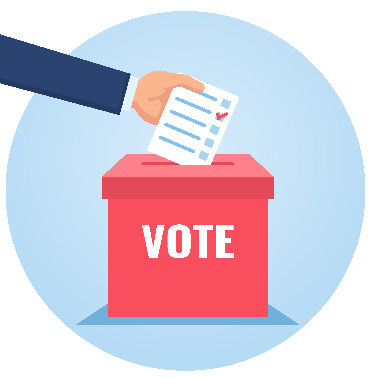
The European Disability Strategy

is a plan that says   
how the **European Commission** will work

to protect the rights of persons with disabilities

from 2010 until 2030.

## European elections

Every 5 years,   
the people who live in the **European Union**   
vote who they want to be Members   
of the **European Parliament**.

The members of the European Parliament   
are called ‘MEPs’, in short.   
MEPs make important decisions   
and speak for all the people of the European Union.   
The next European elections will be in 2024.

## European Ombudsman

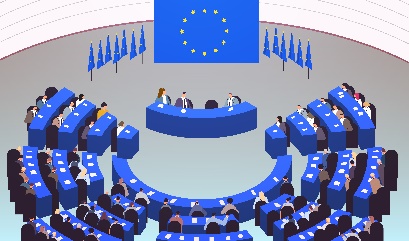
The European Ombudsman   
helps people who have complaints   
against the **European Union**.

People can contact the European Ombudsman   
if they or someone they know feel   
they are treated wrongly by an office   
of the European Union.

## European Parliament

The European Parliament is a place   
where important decisions and laws  
of the **European Union** are made.

## European Parliament of Persons with Disabilities

The European Parliament   
of Persons with Disabilities  
is a big meeting that takes place   
every 5 years in Brussels.

In this meeting,   
people with disabilities   
and people who make laws and decisions in Europe   
come together and talk about:

* How things are for people with disabilities   
  in Europe,
* What can be done better.

## European Union

The European Union is a group of 27 countries in Europe.

These countries came together

to make things better, easier and safer for people.



## Inclusion Europe

Inclusion Europe is an organisation   
that protects the rights   
of people with intellectual disabilities   
and their families in Europe.

## Institutions

Institutions are places

where some persons with disabilities live  
away from other people.

People who live in institutions

may not be able

to make their own choices in life.

## Manifesto on the European elections

This is a list of things   
we want people who make laws   
and decisions in Europe   
to do for people with disabilities.

## National Assembly of People with disabilities in Ukraine

This is an organisation that works to protect   
the rights of people with disabilities in Ukraine.   
Right now, there is war in Ukraine   
and people’s lives are in danger.   
Things are even harder for people with disabilities.

## Pandemic

A pandemic is when a disease   
passes very easily and fast among people.

For example, COVID-19 is a pandemic.

In the last years, too many people in the world

have been ill from COVID-19.

## Refugees

Refugees are people

who leave their countries and their homes

because it is not safe for them

to live there anymore.

For example,   
they may have war in their countries

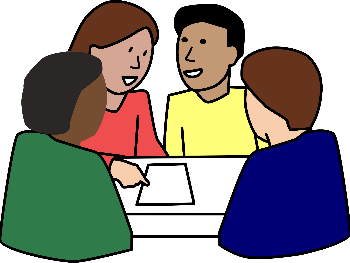
and their lives may be in danger.

In recent years,

many refugees have come to Europe

hoping for a better life.

## UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The UN Committee   
on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities  
is a group of people that checks   
what countries do to respect the rights   
of the **UN Convention**.

## UN Convention

The UN Convention on the Rights

of Persons with Disabilities is an agreement

that many countries in the world have signed.

It says persons with disabilities

have the same rights as everyone else.

It also says how countries

can protect these rights.

In short, we call it ‘the UN Convention’

or ‘the CRPD’.

The **European Union** and all its countries

have signed the UN Convention.

That means that they have agreed to work

to make it happen and to protect the rights

of all persons with disabilities.

## UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

This is an office that works to protect   
the lives of people from disasters.   
A disaster is something that happens   
and has a bad impact on many people’s lives.   
For example,   
when a big earthquake happens in a place   
and many people are killed or hurt.

You can find more explanation of difficult words online at:

<https://www.inclusion-europe.eu/easy-to-read-term/>

# More information

If you have any questions,   
you can send us an email at: [info@edf-feph.org](mailto:info@edf-feph.org).