



Deutscher
Behindertenrat

Das Aktionsbündnis
Deutscher Behindertenverbände

Deutscher Behindertenrat | Mariendorfer Damm 159 | 12107 Berlin

The European Disability Forum

President Yannis Vardakastanis

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Sekretariatsleitung 2026

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Berlin, 25.03.2026

Dear Mr. President Yannis Vardakastanis,

On behalf of the German Disability Council (Deutscher Behindertenrat - DBR) and in accordance with Art. 10.4 of EDF's Internal Rules I ask you to deal with the following resolution at EDF's General Assembly (AGA) on May 9 - 10, 2026 in Cyprus and to place the contents, the wording and the reasoning of this resolution for discussion on the agenda of the AGA:

1. To replace Art. 1 Sentence 2 of EDF's current Statutes by the following wording: "The European Disability Forum, a non profit - making association, was created in 1996 by founding member associations, e.g. the National Council of Disabled People of each of the Member States of the European Union (EU) and the European Economic Area (EEA) and European Non - Governmental Organisations of/for disabled people representing disabled people and *family members or peers* (as such terms are defined by each member association) of disabled people *who need support to represent themselves* in the EU and EEA."
2. To ask EDF's governing bodies to examine whether there are other Articles in EDF's Statutes which need to be discussed and reworded to be in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

To explain the background and the reasons of this resolution I refer to the contents of a template which - in accordance with Art. 16 of EDF's Statutes - was submitted by EDF's

Board member Klaus Lachwitz in EDF's online Board Meeting on March 20, 2026 as a "proposal for discussion" under item 4 of the agenda.

I summarize the contents of the template:

On January 28, 2026 the German Disability Council decided unanimously to nominate a self - advocate as candidate to run for election as an EDF Board member at EDF's AGA on May 9, 2026 in Cyprus.

The nominee is an experienced individual who by some public authorities is treated as a person with intellectual disability, but calls himself a person with disability who under certain circumstances is in need of support to execute his rights and duties.

When the decision to nominate a self - advocate was taken on January 28, 2026 many members of the German Disability Council criticized the wording of Art. 1 Sentence 2 of the current Statutes of the European Disability Forum which reads that EDF was founded in 1996 by EU associations....."of/for disabled people representing disabled people, and parents (as such term is defined by each member organisation) of disabled people who are unable to represent themselves in the EU and EEA."

All DBR members took the view that in particular the last part of this wording is not in line with Art. 12 para. 1 - 3 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) which obliges all UN - CRPD States Parties to guarantee that all "persons with disabilities enjoy legal capacity" and "to take appropriate measures to provide access to the support they may require in exercising their legal capacity."

In addition it was criticized that the term "parents" is used in Art. 1 Sentence 2 of EDF's Statutes. A person like the nominee appointed by the German Disability Council, a middle - aged man, is not supported by his parents any longer, but by siblings, peers and/or experts of his choice. The same is true for many persons with psychosocial disabilities. And persons with dementia, who are also covered by the CRPD and EDF's Statutes, are supported in many cases by their spouses and/or daughters and sons.

The German Disability Council therefore decided to ask EDF's Board in its meeting of March 20, 2026 to replace the term "parents" by the term "family members" and to delete and replace the last part of Sentence 2 of Art. 1 of EDF's Statutes ("unable to represent themselves in the EU and EEA") by a formulation which corresponds with Art. 12 CRPD: "...disabled people who need support to represent themselves in the EU and EEA."

EDF's Board members discussed that in their online meeting on March 20, 2026 and unanimously agreed to ask EDF's President to discuss the resolution of the German Disability Council (DBR) in EDF's General Assembly on May 9 - 10, 2026.

The members of the German Disability Council very much welcome this decision of EDF's Board. I, therefore, would be grateful if you would anchor the above - mentioned resolution together with this text in the agenda of EDF's AGA on May 9 - 10, 2026.

Yours sincerely



Michaela Engelmeier

Chair of the German Disability Council