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Objet: FW: Round-table meeting with the United Nations Independent Expert on foreign debt and human rights in Brussels on Monday 30.5.

Dear EDF national councils,

EDF has been invited by OHCHR to this meeting on foreign debt and human rights on May 30th. I would be grateful if any of you have inputs for this meeting. In particular the affects of austerity measures imposed by the EU on persons with disabilities. Any information you have is welcome- you can send it directly to me before May 30th.

**Warm regards,
Catherine**

"The United Nations Independent Expert on foreign debt and human rights, Mr. Juan Pablo Bohoslavsky, will undertake a visit to Brussels end of May analysing the impact of the financial crisis on the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights in EU countries.

The visit will ultimately result in an official report to the United Nations Human Rights Council complementing his recent report on his visit to Greece ([A/HRC/31/60/Add.2](http://www.unhcr.org/refugees/57400000.html)).

His visit will focus on the following issues:

- (i) Human Rights obligations of European institutions and European States in relation to economic reform and austerity policies implemented in Eurozone countries;
- (ii) Human rights impact of recent economic adjustment programmes implemented in Europe to overcome the sovereign debt crises (Cyprus, Greece, Ireland, Portugal, Spain and other countries under post-programme surveillance) with particular focus on the economic, social and cultural rights, e.g. right to work, social security, health, education and adequate housing;
- (iii) Human rights impacts of the financial crisis and austerity measures on individuals and groups in situation of vulnerability, such as persons with disabilities, refugees, migrants, members of minorities, unemployed, highly indebted persons, children, the elderly, and women;
- (iv) Efforts undertaken by European institutions to prevent negative social and human rights impacts in past and current adjustment programmes and to ensure non-discrimination in their implementation;
- (v) Main lessons learned from the implementation of economic reform programmes in the different countries (success stories, unintended side-effects and failures) in particular in relation to the enjoyment of human rights;
- (vi) The right to participation, transparency and accountability in contexts of economic reform policies supported by European institutions;
- (vii) Other topics related to his mandate, such as illicit financial flows and combatting tax avoidance and evasion.

Attached is a more comprehensive mission note setting out the objectives of the visit and background information about the work of the Independent Expert.

In this context the Independent Expert would welcome to meet representatives of European civil society networks and organisations .