

***Re: 5th European Parliament of persons with disabilities in May 2023***

Dear Members of the European Parliament,

I am writing to you on behalf of **name of national disability council**, which is the representative national federation of persons with disabilities, gathering the main organisations of persons with disabilities and their families in **name of the Country**. We are a full member of the European Disability Forum (EDF).

We would like to ask for your support in view of the upcoming **5<sup>th</sup> “European Parliament of persons with disabilities”** (EPPD), a high-level event on disability which will tentatively take place in May 2023 within the premises of the European Parliament plenary Chamber in Brussels.

This one full day conference will be the fifth of its kind, following the very successful previous editions of 1993, 2003, 2012 and 2017. Hosted by the European Parliament in cooperation with the European Disability Forum, it will bring together in Parliament's Brussels Chamber MEPs and more than 500 delegates from 27 European countries representing the European disability movement in its full diversity. It is a landmark event, financially supported and hosted by the Parliament. It is a unique opportunity for Europeans with disabilities, both leaders and grass-root activists, to have a dialogue with their elected representatives and speak up for their rights. This dialogue will contribute to Parliament's living up to its obligations under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The EP leadership, starting from its President, will attend the event, and so will Leaders from other EU institutions.

As **name of national disability council**, we have started planning our representation at this unique event. **We would like to ask for your kind support in sponsoring our participation through your official visitors' programme.** Your financial support is crucial in enabling us to travel to Brussels and participate in the event. This has been done at every EPPD edition. While Parliament takes over some costs linked to the interpretation and accessibility, MEPs sponsor national delegations of persons with disabilities.

If your annual quota under this programme is already full, I would appreciate if you could talk to the other MEPs, in order to find one colleague who can invite us. We are of course open to any solution that can be found.

I thank you in advance for your support.

Thanks to it, our country will be represented at the 5<sup>th</sup> “European Parliament of persons with disabilities”.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,