



Estonian Presidency  
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EESTI PUUETEGA INIMESTE KODA  
THE ESTONIAN CHAMBER OF DISABLED PEOPLE



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## 4th European Parliament of Persons with Disabilities in 2017

Document for information and discussion

### Purpose

Update Board members on the preparation of the 4<sup>th</sup> European Parliament of Persons with Disabilities (EPPD).

### Questions for EDF members

- Could you give an update of your delegation to the EPPD?

### Introduction

EDF is working hard to organize this event for our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The 4th EPPD will take place on **Wednesday 6 December 2017 in the plenary chamber of the European Parliament in Brussels** and it will last the whole day.

EDF secretariat drafted a **provisional agenda (see annex 1)**, which was reviewed by the executive committee in June.

In addition to the speakers mentioned on the agenda, EDF secretariat will draw up the list of speakers for the 'plenary debates' foreseen for each session. We will do that by sending a call in the month before the event inviting EDF members and MEPs to apply for speaking time.

### Participation of the disability movement

The EPPD is not like a usual conference. Participants are the MEPs, a few other key EU decision-makers and policy-makers and the European Disability Movement in its diversity.

EDF secretariat has been in touch with EDF members to invite them to organize the delegation from the disability movement. EDF regularly contacted members regarding planning of national delegations and offered support, joint letters and contacts.

A special issue of Members' Mailing dedicated to the 4th European Parliament of Persons with Disabilities (EPPD) was sent to all members in July. This issue gave an



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update of all the different aspects of the preparation of this event to make sure that the whole EDF membership is well informed and aware of it.

All background information and tools can be found on the EDF website members' area. (<http://www.edf-feph.org/4th-european-parliament-persons-disabilities>).

EDF National Councils were invited to form representative delegations and contact MEPs with a view to being sponsored by them. EDF ENGOS and other members were also invited to form delegations. The EDF executive committee adopted in June 'guidelines' for EDF members on how to set up delegations' in order to bring further guidance to EDF members.

**In annex 2, you can find the list of delegations which EDF secretariat was informed of (at the time of writing).**

It is essential that EDF secretariat is informed of all participants to the EPPD conference of 6 December. EDF secretariat collects the information and will send the list of participants for 6 December to the European parliament administration, who will issue EP access badges.

EDF has also asked the Parliament authorities to take a decision allowing EDF delegations groups sponsored by MEPs to be exempted from the normally compulsory a 90-minute presentation on the parliament and its activities and meeting with the sponsoring MEP. We had obtained this exemption in 2012 by putting the presentation (a reduced one) inside the EPPD programme. We have already asked the EP authorities to grant a similar exception this year ; yet at the time of writing the EP authorities were still to adopt such a decision – EDF members should thus keep this presentation in their planning (on the day before or after the conference if possible) and we will keep you informed as soon as the EP adopts the exceptional decision.

### **Cooperation with the European Parliament**

Parliament leadership accepted to financially support the EPPD with 73000€. Through this budget, the EP will defray the cost for the meeting room, security, and will provide:

- Spoken interpretation in all official EU languages
- International Signs interpretation
- speech-to-text in English on a big screen
- Meeting documents in English, French, easy-to-read, and braille
- Live webstreaming on the website of the European Parliament in accessible format



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The EP administration will help us in planning the event. EDF also regularly discussed the event with the 12 MEPS of the Bureau of the Disability intergroup.