



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



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BREXIT overview

Document for information and discussion

Purpose

This document serves to update the Board on discussions and negotiations with regards to the UK leaving the European Union (hereafter, Brexit) and the impact on persons with disabilities.

Question:

- 1) What is EDF's role in ensuring the rights of persons with disabilities will be upheld in the BREXIT negotiations, including the rights of persons with disabilities in Northern Ireland?

Background

- On 29 March 2017, the UK notified the European Union of its decision to withdraw from the Union. As a result, the UK is currently negotiating and concluding a withdrawal agreement with the Union.
- In its position paper on "Essential Principles on Citizens' rights" published on Monday 12 June, the European Commission made it clear that one of its priorities would be to ensure the protection of the rights of EU27 citizens, UK nationals and their family members who, at the date of the entry into force of the Withdrawal Agreement, have enjoyed rights relating, inter alia, to the freedom of movement under Union law.

EDF and members' actions

- As part of the [project 'BREXIT Takeaways'](#), EDF contributed to a study conducted by the [European Citizens Action Service \(ECAS\)](#) on what the impact will be for persons with disabilities when the UK leaves the EU
- EDF together with ENIL and ECAS organized a workshop in March 2017 to inform the UK DPOs on the negotiations at the EU level, to raise awareness on their rights under EU law, and to get informed about the developments at the UK level and the concerns of the UK DPOs



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- EDF participated in a conference organized by ECAS on BREXIT and raised awareness on the need to mainstream the rights of persons with disabilities in the EU negotiations
- EDF wrote to Michel Barnier, the main EU negotiator with the UK government and received the reply in annex to this document
- Main demands are
 - The voices and concerns of all persons with disabilities, including women, children and young persons with disabilities, are duly recognised during the negotiations. This means that all basic documents should be made accessible, such as information on migration and residence rights for EU nationals who wish to continue living in the UK after Brexit.
 - To safeguard all existing rights of persons with disabilities granted today under EU law to persons with disabilities, in particular non-discrimination, their right to independent living, employment and access to health and social services. A direct reference on the rights of citizens with disabilities, and their family members should be made in the Withdrawal Agreement
 - The EU monitors the impact of any changes on the status of children and adults with disabilities and their families.
 - that organisations directly representing persons with disabilities, such as EDF, take part in public hearings and are consulted throughout the process.

Further information

Read more at the [report of the workshop in London](#)

Check out [ENIL's Briefing on the impact of Brexit with a focus on independent living](#) and the [manifesto of the Disability Rights UK on Brexit](#).

Report [ECAS study](#): "5 Takeaways on BREXIT: Outlining Possible Scenarios for a New UK-EU Relationship and their Impact on Citizens"

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