

Proposed Resolution on CRPD implementation in the European Union

The [European Disability Forum](http://www.edf-feph.org/)¹ is an independent NGO that defends the interests of more than 80 million Europeans with disabilities. We are a unique platform which brings together representative organisation of persons with disabilities from across Europe. We are run by persons with disabilities and their families. We are a strong, united voice of persons with disabilities in Europe.

The European Disability Forum,

- a) Recalling the obligations of the European Union (EU) as a Party to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) which establishes that all existing and new legislation shall be compliant with the Convention;
- b) Recalling the Concluding Observations to the European Union adopted by the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD Committee) in 2015, in particular the call of the Committee to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention and to regularly update the Declaration of Competence;
- c) Recalling the obligation to respect and implement article 4(3) of the CRPD which states that “In the development and implementation of legislation and policies to implement the present Convention, and in other decision-making processes concerning issues relating to persons with disabilities, States Parties shall closely consult with and actively involve persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations” as well as General Comment No. 7 of the CRPD Committee where the participation of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention is clearly reasserted;

¹ <http://www.edf-feph.org/>

- d) Welcoming the response of the European Union to the urgent recommendations adopted by the CRPD Committee in its Concluding Observations to the European Union;
- e) Welcoming the efforts undertaken by the European Commission to implement the recommendations of the CRPD Committee, and in particular the proposed European Accessibility Act, currently hindered by the Council of the European Union;

Calls upon the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council to:

- 1) Ensure the systematic implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
- 2) Conduct a cross-cutting comprehensive legislative review and to actively involve representative organisations of persons with disabilities in this process;
- 3) Ensure that the next European Disability Strategy is taken by the European Union as an opportunity to set out how it will fully implement the CRPD across all EU institutions and Member States with a budget, a timeframe and a monitoring mechanism, with a specific emphasis to the implementation of the Concluding Observations to the EU;
- 4) Urgently ensure the right to vote of all EU citizens in the EU elections by removing all accessibility barriers and all restrictions to the right to vote related to legal capacity, and ensure full accessibility of election campaigns;
- 5) Ensure the prompt adoption of an ambitious European Accessibility Act;
- 6) Ensure that the next EU budget is fully in line with the CRPD, and in particular that European Funds are invested in fully accessible infrastructures and services, such as independent living and personal assistance, as well as to support the transition from institutional to community-based settings in line with article 19 of the CRPD. The involvement and capacity of persons with disabilities and their representative organisations should be reinforced, especially with regard to the partnership and governance principle, in the selection of operations and in the monitoring committees;

7) Step
up

efforts to promote research and development of universally designed goods, services, equipment and facilities in line with article 4(1)(f) of the CRPD, including by mainstreaming disability and universal design in its Post-Horizon 2020 research and innovation framework programme;

- 8) Set up a structured dialogue with persons with disabilities and their representative organisations in all EU decision-making processes, with a specific budget and sufficient fund to ensure effective consultation and participation, in line with article 4(3) of the CRPD and General Comment No. 7;
- 9) Designate focal points in all EU institutions, bodies and agencies, and establish an inter-institutional coordination mechanism for the implementation of the Convention, in line with article 33(2) of the CRPD;
- 10) Adopt equal treatment legislation – in particular the proposal for a horizontal equal treatment directive – and policies aiming to extend the protection against discrimination of persons with disabilities, including the prohibition of multiple and intersectional discrimination in all areas of its competence, in line with article 5 of the CRPD, General Comment No. 6 on article 5 of the CRPD and paragraph 19 of the Concluding Observations to the EU;
- 11) Develop and run a campaign to raise awareness of the CRPD and call 2021 the European Year of Persons with Disabilities;
- 12) Adopt measures to combat prejudices against persons with disabilities, especially persons with psychosocial and intellectual disabilities, and older persons with disabilities, and ensure their full inclusion in the community;
- 13) Ensure that all materials related to training and capacity building, awareness-raising, public statements, etc., are made accessible to all persons with disabilities, and especially to those with psychosocial and intellectual disabilities in line with articles 8 and 9 of the CRPD;
- 14) Mainstream the rights and perspectives of women and children with disabilities in all future EU strategies and policies on gender equality and children rights, in line with articles 6 and 7 of the CRPD;
- 15) Guarantee access for all children with disabilities to inclusive and quality education in European schools, and take policy measures to facilitate the

access to inclusive and quality education for all students with disabilities in the EU Member States;