



4th European Parliament of Persons with Disabilities

**Wednesday 6 December 2017
European Parliament hemicycle (Brussels)**

BACKGROUND

The EPPD is intended to foster a dialogue between representatives of organisations of persons with disabilities, members of the European Parliament and EU decision makers.

The EPPD has been held three times to date - in 1993, 2003 and 2012. The 1st EPPD was organized under the initiative of the European Commission within the scope of the HELIOS Program before the creation of the European Disability Forum, and coincided with the adoption of the UN Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities; the 2nd EPPD, organised this time by EDF, marked the end of the European Year of Persons with Disabilities 2003 and the 10th anniversary of the UN Standard Rules, and took place while negotiations for the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD) were ongoing; and the 3rd EPPD focused on the implementation of the UN CRPD in the EU in a time of crisis, following its ratification and immediately prior to the EU submitting its first report to the CRPD Committee.

The UNCRPD and its optional protocol were adopted on 13 December 2006 by the UN General Assembly. Since then, the Convention has been ratified by 173 countries, including 27 EU Member States, and the optional protocol has been ratified by 92 countries, including 22 EU Union member states. The European Union concluded the UNCRPD on 23 December 2010, while EU ratification of the optional protocol remains pending. In 2015, the EU was reviewed by the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on its progress in implementing the UN CRPD and received commendations from the Committee.

The 4th EPPD will be held to mark EDF's 20th anniversary, as the European institutions take on board the CRPD Committee concluding observations to the EU, and as work progresses to ensure full inclusion of persons with disabilities in the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals.



DRAFT AGENDA

- 9:30 Introduction to the functioning of the EP
By DG COM, visitors and seminars' unit (tbc)
- 10:00 Official Opening**
- EP President Antonio Tajani
- EDF President Yannis Vardakastanis
- 10:20 – 12:15 Plenary session 1: we want to vote! towards fully accessible European elections 2019 and the end of discrimination for persons with disabilities' participation in political and public life**
- (tbc) Speakers:**
- European Commission President
Council Presidency – government of Estonia
Chair of EP AFCD Committee
Self-advocate
EESC President
Vice-president Papadimoulis
- 11:15 - 12:15 Plenary debate: 60 min (MEPs and 15 speakers from disability movement)
- 12:15 – 12:30 Adoption of EPPD manifesto on the elections and resolution on the European disability strategy**
- 12:30 - 14:00 Lunch break
- 14:00 - 16:00 Plenary session 2: The Europe we want / Human rights for all: towards a CRPD EU Strategy 2020-2030, supported by an adequate budget and inclusive EU funds**
- (tbc) Speakers:**
- EP Group Presidents
Commissioner Cretu
Chair of EP EMPL Committee
European Ombudsman (*confirmed*)



Director of the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (*confirmed*)
President of the Committee of the Regions (*confirmed*)
Social Platform, Business Europe, ETUC

15:00-16:00 Plenary debate: 60 min (MEPs and 15 speakers from disability movement)

16:00- 17:25 Plenary session 3: the EU in the world leading by example in CRPD implementation

(tbc) Speakers:

Commissioner Marian Thyssen (*confirmed under reserve*)
Commissioner Stylianides
Commissioner Mimica
SDG Watch Europe
Chair of the DEVE Committee

16:45-17:25 Plenary debate: 40 min (MEPs and 15 speakers from disability movement)

17:25-17:30 Concluding remarks

RULES OF PROCEEDING

The conference will use rules of procedure similar to those governing European Parliament plenary sessions: speakers' lists will be agreed and speaking time allocated in advance of the event. The organizers will ensure that the lists will be inclusive of the most marginalised persons with disabilities - women and children and young people with disabilities, people with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, people in need of high level support. The sessions will be co-chaired by EDF executive committee members and EP Disability intergroup Bureau MEPs.

PRACTICALITIES

- ✓ Spoken Interpretation in all official EU languages
- ✓ International Signs interpretation
- ✓ Velotypist (speech-to-text) in English on a big screen
- ✓ Official EP webstreaming in accessible format
- ✓ Meeting documents in English, French, easy to read and braille formats