



Brussels, 20 November 2019
Ref: EDF 019-77-MLD-YV

To: Mr Charles Michel
President-elect of the European Council

Subject: Request for meeting to discuss disability priorities for the European Council

Dear President-elect of the European Council,

We, the European Disability Forum (EDF) and the Belgian Disability Forum (BDF), are writing to you to congratulate you on your nomination as President of the European Council.

The EU and all its Member States have ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), resulting in a range of obligations for the EU to make Europe more inclusive and accessible for all its citizens. At this time, the EU is coming to the end of its current Disability Strategy and should now prepare a new Disability Strategy (2020-2030) for adoption.

Given the critically important role of the Council in policy and legislation development, EDF and BDF would like to request a meeting to discuss the role the President of the Council can play in addressing this crucial issue. We would be particularly interested to talk about:

- Implementation of the CRPD in general by the EU
- The creation of a Disability Focal Point in the Council
- The new European Disability Strategy 2020-2030
- The European Disability Card as a practical instrument to enact the freedom of movement of person with disabilities
- Reinforcement and implementation of the Pillar of Social Rights
- Participation of organisations of persons with disabilities in the European decision-making process

The meeting would also be an opportunity for you and your team to outline what support you would like to see from EDF to help you achieve the best results in your



work, and how we can collaborate going forward in the interest of all persons with disabilities.

We would like to thank you in advance for your time and consideration, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Yannis Vardakastanis

President

European Disability Forum

Pierre Gyselinck

President

Belgian Disability Forum

The **European Disability Forum (EDF)** is an umbrella organisation of persons with disabilities that defends the interests of over 100 million persons with disabilities in Europe. 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 **Belgian Disability Forum (BDF)** is a member of EDF. BDF gathers 17 Belgian organisations representative of persons with disabilities and it represents the interests of various disability groups at the European and supranational level. BDF departs from the principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities for its actions. The BDF requires that the rights of persons with disabilities be taken into account in every policy decision.