

DOC-BOARD-19-11-04

European Parliament

Document for information and discussion

Purpose of this item

The purpose of this item to discuss the actions foreseen by EDF to influence the European Parliament, including the re-establishment of the Disability Intergroup 2019-2024, with the aim to mainstream more effectively the rights of persons with disabilities in the Parliament's work.

Questions for the Board

- Do you have feedback on the current EDF approach to the European Parliament?
- Do you have feedback on the current strategy to re-establish the Disability Intergroup?
- Do you have any further suggestion to increase the visibility and influence of EDF and its members in the European Parliament?
- Do you have any contact within the Parliament that EDF secretariat should approach?

Actions towards reinforcing EDF work within the Parliament

In parallel to the strategy to re-establish the Disability Intergroup, EDF has undertaken and planned the following actions:

- Emails to the leaders of the political groups in June.
- Training on meaningful advocacy by the Green political group in August.

- Contact with key rapporteurs of ongoing policy-making processes, such as the EU budget regulations.
- Welcome toolkits for all MEPs in the relevant committees for EDF and its members. These toolkits include the main priorities and resources of EDF and its members in the main area of work of the MEPs. October.
- A letter sent to the President of the European Parliament, David Maria Sassoli (S&D, Italy) requesting a meeting with him and his commitment to host the 5th European Parliament of Persons with Disabilities.
- EDF prepared a set of proposals for questions to be used by MEPs in the hearings with the appointed Commissioners.
- Letters to the presidents of the political groups calling for a joint meeting with them.
- Once we meet with the Parliament President, we will ask him to arrange a meeting with the President of the Commission and the President of the Council.

Disability Intergroup

Only three members of the previous Disability Intergroup bureau were re-elected. Nevertheless, due to the successful campaign of EDF and its members during the European elections, and the swift approach to newly elected MEPs, at the moment of preparation of this document EDF secretariat has registered the interest of approximately 70 MEPs who committed to support and join the intergroup.

A strategy was prepared to be shared with MEPs interested in promoting the formal establishment of the Disability Intergroup by the Parliament. This term there will be 27 intergroups, which will be announced on December 12. We will need the support of three political groups.

On September 11th, a meeting was organised to constitute an informal Disability Intergroup bureau to take responsibility and leadership in re-establishing the

intergroup. The meeting was very well attended by at least 19 MEPs and many more assistants showing the cross-party appetite and interest in this Intergroup.

Even though in the end it was not made officially public, EDF Secretariat has a clear idea on the potential bureau of the next Disability Intergroup:

- Co-Presidents: Adam KOSA (EPP HU), Mónica Silvana GONZALEZ (S&D ES), Radka MAXOVA (Renew Europe CZ) and Katrin LANGENSIEPEN (Green DE)
- Vice presidents: Stelios KYMPOUROPOULOS (EPP EL), Rosa ESTARAS (EPP ES), Brando BENIFEI (S&D IT), Marianne VIND (S&D DK), Dragos PISLARU (Renew RO), Chrysoula ZACHAROPOULOU (Renew FR), Tilly METZ (Greens LU)

If confirmed, this Bureau will be very well balanced in terms of gender, political groups and regions of Europe. Furthermore, it includes key MEPs vis a vis their countries and political influence, meaning one French MEP from Macron's party (the biggest delegation of France), one MEP from Spanish social-democrats (the biggest S&D delegation in the Parliament), or one Green MEP from Germany.

Finally, out of the seven MEPs identified having a disability (four of them visible), three of them want to have a strong role in the Disability Intergroup (MEPs Kosa, Langensiepen and Kypouropoulos).

As upcoming actions aimed at re-establishing the Disability Intergroup:

- An open reception will be organised on November 12th to present publicly the interest of MEPs in re-establishing the intergroup. This will give the opportunity to approach new MEPs, and for EDF members to meet with the most supportive MEPs.
- Target recruiting of members for the Intergroup based on the policy needs of EDF and its members: the goal will be to have as many members as possible

in all the relevant committees (identified in the above welcome toolkits), and from all the EU countries.

- First Disability Intergroup formal meeting in Strasbourg in January.
- Meeting with EDF Executive Committee and Disability Intergroup bureau in Brussels, along with the New Year's Reception on 22 January (TBC).

European Parliament CRPD Network

The EP CRPD Network is a formal cross-Committee group of MEPs, chaired by a member of the Employment and Social Affairs Committee and supported by Parliament secretariat, to exchange information and mainstream the CRPD across the different Committees of the Parliament. At the moment of drafting this document, EDF Secretariat does not know the composition of the network yet, but has encouraged several ally MEPs to apply for these positions.

EP members in the EU CRPD independent monitoring framework

The European Parliament, more particularly the Committees of Petitions and Employment and Social affairs are members of the CRPD monitoring framework. At the moment of preparing this document, EDF secretariat does not know yet which MEPs will represent these Committees in the CRPD monitoring framework. EDF Secretariat has encouraged several ally MEPs to apply to these positions.