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| **Minutes of the meeting of the EU Framework to promote, protect and monitor**  **the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD)**  **Wednesday 9 December 2020**  **[9.30-10.30 am]**  (WebEx meeting) |

**Minutes**

1. **Welcome and opening**

*The chair, Marta Hirsch-Ziembinska, welcomed the participants to this, the 3rd meeting of the Framework in 2020.*

1. **Approval of the agenda**

*The agenda was amended to change the order of items and approved.*

1. **Discussion on the Chair of the EU Framework**

*It was announced that Parliament would take over the Chair as of January 2021.*

1. **Update on European Disability Strategy post-2020**

* *The Strategy is being drafted at the moment, FRA & EDF participated actively in the various consultations.*
* *It is expected that the Strategy will come out in the first quarter of 2021.*
* *FRA will still send some written input by the end of 2020.*
* *From what is known now, there will not be a ‘skeleton’ Strategy. Rather, the Commission will publish the Strategy in the first quarter of 2021 (most likely towards the end of February). The Strategy will likely be discussed at a 19-20 April high level meeting on the CRPD. Council Conclusions on disability are foreseen for June.*
* *The Comission’s involvement of a wide range of actors, including framework members, was commended, as was the scope of the disability roadmap, which included the issue of European schools & the wider issue of the EU as public administration. Most of the other topics considered important to Framework members were also in Commissioner Dalli’s speeches*
* *It was noted that a staff working paper was published recently on the results of an external study into the previous Strategy.*
* *The issue of disability would be discussed by the DE PRES at a Council Working Group on 27 December.*
* *Considering the fact that the document would likely mention the EU Framework, the Ombudsman will ask the Commission whether framework members can look at a draft version and comment on the text as it relates to the Framework.*
* *EP’s PETI Committee mentioned at the meeting that Commission published late November a staff working paper SWP (2020)289 and the Council WG will discuss on 27 Dec, still under German Presidency.*

1. **Updates from EU Framework members on activities to promote, protect and monitor the implementation of the UN CRPD**

*The Chair noted that most items in the 2019-2020 workplan have been done. It was noted that input into the strategy had been given and that the working paper on promising practices was being put together by FRA.*

**EDF**

* *The EDF have been advocating for inclusion of persons with disabilities in the new strategies and policies adopted by the EC including the Gender Equality Strategy, Gender Action Plan III, LGBTI Strategy, Victims’ RightsAsylum and Migration Pact, Action plan on integration and inclusion of Migrant, Digitalisation of Justice, Strategy on the implementation of the Charter of fundamental Rights, European Democration Action Plan, Child Rights’ Strategy… The outcome has been mostly positive, as disability rights and the CRPD are being mainstreamed in most of the new initiatives.* [*EDF’s feedback are available here.*](http://www.edf-feph.org/feedback)
* *The EDF is concerned that EC consultations are not accessible, even the consulation on the roadmap on the European Disability Strategy. There are accessibility issues (CAPHA, new form of identification). The EDF considers making a complaint to the Ombudsman.*
* *In relation to implementation of EU law, the EDF is supporting members on advocacy at national level, in particular concerning the European Accessibility Act and the Web Directive; 3 webinars were organised this year. The EDF continues to monitor the impact of COVID-19 on people with disabilities in the EU. Its report will be published early 2021 and will highlight violations of the CRPD from the EU and its members States.*

**European Parliament**

*EP activities in the 2nd half of 2020 and forthcoming activities*

*EMPL Committee:*

* *Ms Langensiepen’s report on* [*'Implementation of Council Directive 2000/78/EC establishing a general framework for equal treatment in employment and occupation in light of the UNCRPD'*](https://oeil.secure.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/popups/ficheprocedure.do?reference=2020/2086(INI)&l=en) *is ongoing, the negotiation of compromises is under way, the EMPL vote is scheduled for the end of January.*
* *The related* [*EPRS study 'Implementation of the Employment Equality Directive in the light of the UN CRPD'*](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document.html?reference=EPRS_STU(2020)654206) *has been recently published.*
* *On 16 November, the EMPL Committee held and exchange of views with Commissioner Dalli on the Disablity Strategy post 2020 (combined with the consideration of AMs to Ms Langensiepen’s draft report).*
* *On 16 November, the EMPL Committee held an exchange of views with the Director of FRA on the FRA findings on Roma and travellers during pandemic and on people with disabilities and elderly people during pandemic.*
* *EMPL plans to hold a hearing with LIBE on ‘the social and human rights situation of persons living in residential institutions during the COVID-19 pandemic’.*

*LIBE Committee:*

*The LIBE Committee will contribute with an opinion to the ongoing EMPL and PETI reports and is co-organiser of the above-mentioned joint EMPL-LIBE hearing.*

*PETI Committee:*

* *On 8 July, the Parliament adopted a* [*resolution of 8 July 2020 on the rights of persons with intellectual disabilities and their families in the COVID-19 crisis*](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2020-0183_EN.html) *followed by a* [*Report by Inclusion Europe*](https://www.inclusion-europe.eu/covid-report-2020/)*.*
* *In July 2020, a* [*study on "The Post-2020 European Disability Strategy"*](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2020/656398/IPOL_STU(2020)656398_EN.pdf) *was published, requested by the PETI Committee.*
* *On 28 October, the PETI Committee held a* [*Workshop on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/worskhop-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-d/product-details/20201021WKS03003)*, with the authors of the study, Commissioner Dalli, the Ombudsman, the EDF, FRA and the German Presidency.*
* *The PETI Committee will draw up a report on "The protection of persons with disabilities through petitions: lessons learnt". The report is planned to be presented and voted in committee in the first half of 2021.*

*In addition, on 8 October, a plenary debate was held* [*on the impact of Covid-19 outbreak on long-term care facilities.*](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/CRE-9-2020-10-08-INT-4-070-0000_HU.html)

*Furthermore, Members submitted questions for written answers to the Council and Commission on various topics, such as* [*establishment of disability focal points*](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2020-003883_EN.html)*,* [*right to vote of people with disabilities in Slovenia*](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2020-005380_EN.html)*, on the Eurostat Reference and Management of Nomenclature* [*concerning some concepts, which are not appropriate*](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2020-005582_EN.html) *(mental retardation, the disabled),* [*European Access Board*](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2020-005863_EN.html)*.*

**FRA**

* *FRA did an event with the Czech Human Rights Defender on human rights indicators, this will be repeated next year; the event was similar to the one in Bulgaria. FRA is planning more such events. FRA is continuing to work on a paper on indicators and disability.*
* *FRA is also working on the chapter in the fundamental rights report and supplied data to Ms Langensiepen’s team on employment & disability*
* *FRA has also published its COVID Bulletins (the 6th one just came out which also cover disability issues*

**European Ombudsman**

*The European Ombudsman is still working on the situation of staff members with disabilities and will issue a report regarding the situation at COM, which will highlight good practices in this regard. The Ombudsman may take further action on use of EU funds for institutions. The Ombudsman is also working on complaints on disabilities related issues as they come.*

1. **Discussion on upcoming EU review by UN CRPD Committee-overview of situation and next steps**

* *It was noted that the review of the EU is likely to be postponed as a result of delays in reviews of country reports due to the COVID crisis. EDF will publish an interim report on EU compliance next year. FRA is also working on a report. It was noted that* *9 new members were elected to the CRPD Committee, with no EU candidates elected. The two European (the Swiss and Lithuanian) members’ terms will end soon*
* *It was agreed that FRA would inquire on the state of play regarding the review of the EU with OHCHR*

1. **Discussion on Framework’s work plan and activities for 2021-2022**

*It was agreed that FRA would do first draft of a new work plan. Members will receive a request for input from FRA, and were called upon to reflect on what is really needed. The impact of COVID-19 on persons with disabilities was mooted as a potential joint activity. It was noted that level 3 (i.e. joint) activities on strategy were still relevant for the upcoming workplan. Moreover, the EU review by the UN CRPD Committee should be included in the workplan.*

1. **AOB**

*It was also agreed that there would be an update on the COVID activities of EU Framework members. FRA will send a request for updates.*