|  |
| --- |
| **Meeting of the EU Framework**  **to promote, protect and monitor**  **the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**  **Monday 14 November 2016**  **11.00 – 13.00**  Rue Montoyer 30, room MTS02X34 |

**Draft minutes**

**Participants**

European Ombudsman (EO): Elpida Apostolidou

European Parliament (EP): Monika Makay, Georgiana Sandu, Orsolya Zara, Adrian Reina Hurtado, Francisco Guerra

European Disability Forum (EDF): Catherine Naughton

Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA): Martha Stickings

1. **Welcome and opening**

Martha Stickings opened the meeting and welcomed the participants.

Annika Pabsch (EP) sent apologies for not being able to attend.

1. **Approval of the agenda**

The agenda was approved with the addition, on the request of the EO, that the idea of a thematic approach for the EU Framework on a yearly basis be discussed under AOB.

1. **Draft Work programme 2017-2018**

FRA thanked Framework members for their comments on the draft work programme 2017-2018 and contribution to the review of the work programme 2015-2016. FRA informed that it had added hyperlinks to all documents mentioned in the review with a view to it acting as a depository of information about members’ activities.

Framework members agreed that the new work programme be organised to reflect the CRPD Committee’s designation of promotion, protection and monitoring activities. They discussed the proposed activities and identified timeframes and responsible members for their implementation.

*Action points:*

* *All Framework members to make final additions to the review of the work programme 2015-2016, and check hyperlinks to published documents by Friday 25 November.*
* *All Framework members to add upcoming and regular events to the work programme 2017-2018 by Friday 25 November.*
* *All Framework members to pursue approval of the review of the work programme 2015-2016 and the work programme 2017-2018 to enable publication – as separate documents – by end 2016.*

Promotion:

1. Framework members discussed the maintenance and further development of the Framework webpages.

*Action points:*

* *Discuss translation of webpages into French and German at start of 2017. EP to explore whether it could offer translation assistance for a factsheet on the EU Framework in all EU languages.*
* *EDF to contact the European Union of the Deaf and Inclusion Europe to request assistance with updated international sign and easy-read versions of the webpages, including the information on the 2015 review of the EU’s CRPD implementation by the CRPD Committee.*
* *Members to provide, on a quarterly basis, information on key news and events to be uploaded as a single document onto the Framework webpage (see also coordination and operation of the framework, below).*
* *Update EU Framework webpages to include links to information about the EU review process in easy-read (Inclusion Europe) and international sign (European Union of the Deaf)*

1. Members agreed to act as a point for information on monitoring the implementation of the CRPD, including through their individual reporting, and information communicated on their own websites.

*Action points:*

* *Members to consider making more explicit, including in their respective regular reporting, when their actions are linked to their role in the EU Framework.*
* *Members to consider including a link to the Framework webpages on their respective websites, or when publishing news/events items with Framework relevance.*

1. Members discussed possibilities for organising public events linked to the Framework. The EP highlighted that the Committee on Petitions plans to continue hosting an annual workshop, organised by the policy department, on disability-related petitions at the end of October/November.

In addition, Framework members agreed to consider the organisation of public events focused on issues of relevance to all members. Models for organisation would depend on the event, but could include those either directly co-organised by Framework members or organised by one member with a specific link to the Framework. Possible issues include:

* Refugees with disabilities
* Women with disabilities
* Web accessibility
* Proposed pillar of social rights
* Sustainable development goals
* Follow up of CRPD Committee concluding observations

Possible events include:

* Conference of States Parties to the CRPD and high level political forum
* European Parliament of Persons with Disabilities
* Workshops attached to existing events in EU Member States, which could bring together actors from members’ networks at the national level.

*Action points:*

* *All members to consider possible joint events, or events organised under the auspices of the EU Framework in 2017.*

1. Framework members considered how to further facilitate communication and cooperation with national frameworks in EU Member States. Options include organising thematic workshops on:

* specific areas of shared EU-Member State competence e.g. European Structural and Investment Funds;
* areas where there are existing or forthcoming general comments;
* best practices in national implementation and monitoring.

*Action points:*

* *All members to consider relevant themes for the 2017 meeting between the EU and national frameworks established under Article 33(2) with a view to proposing options to national frameworks for their feedback.*
* *EDF to find out the date of the 2017 Work Forum to facilitate early organisation of the meeting between the EU and national frameworks.*

1. Members discussed options for engaging with relevant stakeholders, in particular EU Working groups. A follow up meeting with COHOM could be foreseen for the future. Engagement with COHOM- no strict plan to approach COHOM right now.

*Action points:*

* *Consider approaching the Inter-service group on disability to present the Framework and/or share tools on how the EU can implement the CRPD within its public administration.*

1. Framework members agreed to consider a joint response to the European Commission’s reporting back to the CRPD Committee on the three most urgent concluding observations.

*Actions points:*

* *Once published, all members to analyse the Commission’s report and consider whether the Framework could prepare a join response.*

1. Members discussed options for developing and disseminating information and training material to increase awareness of the CRPD among EU institutions, agencies and bodies.

*Action points:*

* *All members to share information on CRPD training and capacity building they have already undertaken within their organisations.*
* *Consider joint or shared initiatives on training, building on existing knowledge and expertise within Framework members.*

Protection

Framework members generally agreed on the proposed protection-related activities, which are largely an extension of the previous work programme.

The EP reported that PETI plans to continue its annual update of disability-related petitions.

*Action points:*

* *EO to consider compiling disability-related complaints and related actions on an annual or biennial basis.*

Monitoring

Framework members discussed monitoring activities for the new work programme, which follow up on those in the previous work programme.

Members highlighted the problems associated with inadequate data and highlighted frequent recommendations to this effect.

*Action points:*

* *EDF to reflect on previous planned study of status of the CRPD in the EU legal order.*

Coordination and operation of the Framework

1. Framework members agreed to publish a regular – initially quarterly – newsletter. The newsletter will contain information about recent activities, and past and upcoming events; for this it will draw on information submitted by members (see above under promotion).

The newsletter will be posted on the Framework webpage distributed by Framework members to their networks (e.g. European Network of Ombudsmen, EDF members, EP Committees) as well as to national frameworks.

*Action points:*

* *FRA to compile first newsletter based on input from all members for sending before end 2016. This will include sharing the review of the 2015-2016 work programme and the agreed 2017-2018 work programme.*

1. Framework members agreed to set a regular schedule for quarterly Framework meetings, with additional ad hoc meetings when required.

Once the schedule is agreed, the European Commission, as focal point for CRPD implementation, could be invited to meet with the Framework alongside its regular meetings. This would enable an exchange of views on current activities and priorities.

*Action points:*

* *FRA to propose dates for quarterly Framework meetings for the period 2017-2018 to be agreed by all members.*
* *FRA to write to the European Commission on behalf of the Framework to propose a meeting in early 2017 to discuss the Commission’s report to the CRPD Committee on the three urgent concluding observations, and modalities for systematic collaboration between the framework and focal point.*

1. **Chair and secretariat roles**

Framework members agreed to discuss this issue at the next meeting.

1. **AOB**

The agenda for the next meeting will include updates from Framework members, and the possibility to have an annual thematic focus for the Framework’s work.