**Minutes**

**Meeting of the EU Framework to promote, protect and monitor**

**the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD)**

**26 April 2022, 10:00-12:00**

(online meeting)

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| Present: | **Chair:** Katrin Langensiepen (MEP)  **EP staff:** Saulius Milius, Karin Sauerteig, Karolina Gajewska, Angelika Kiss, John Hultengard, Roxana Andronic, Szymon Piotr Ananicz, Elena Thevissen  **FRA:** Felicitas Hochstrasser, Robert Jan Uhl  **EDF**: Marine Uldry  **European Ombudsman**: Marta Hirsch-Ziembinska, Valentina Stoeva |
| Minutes drafted by: | Felicitas Hochstrasser |

1. **Welcome and Opening**

The chair, Katrin Langensiepen MEP, opened the meeting.

1. **Approval of the Agenda**

The agenda was adopted.

1. **Election of new Chair**

The chair proposed the election of EDF as chair of the Framework, which was agreed unanimously. EDF will announce the person chairing the Framework ahead of the next meeting of the Framework.

1. **Update on relevant activities and exchange of views on CRPD**

**Implementation**

**FRA:**

* FRA is working on two papers: on CRPD indicators for national monitoring frameworks, and findings from the Fundamental Rights Survey on disability issues. FRA is happy to discuss these papers with other member of the Framework
* The Fundamental Rights Report is being published in June, with a chapter on CRPD and on the recovery fund; the latter chapter also touches on issues regarding funding for institutions.
* FRA is working on a research project on EU funds. The initial desk research is done. FRANET researchers will commence the interviews now. Research involves various countries and EU-level research as well. Some organisations may be approached in the context of this project by FRANET researchers regarding EU funds and the Charter.
* Annual meeting with ENNHRI working group on disability: FRA suggests inviting EQUINET to that as they are also involved in ENNHRIs. **Email to be circulated about setting a date for the meeting in autumn.**
* List of issues adopted by CRPD committee: a lot of points were reflected in the list of issues from our input. The framework itself is mentioned at the end as well.
* Professor Schefer agreed to join in the September or November framework meeting 🡪 there are no strong preferences from CRPD framework side regarding the date. **Date to be determined in consultation with Professor Schefer**.
* *Question*: Has anyone heard about review of the framework? Would be good to inquire. The review of the framework was supposed to be in 2022.

**European Ombudsman:**

* The decision in the EO’s own-initiative inquiry on how the Commission monitors EU structural and investment funds to ensure they are used to promote the right of persons with disabilities to independent living and inclusion in the community is to be published today or tomorrow, and will be sent by email to all framework members.
* The visit by special rapporteur Quinn was very important and interesting 🡪 several conclusions are worth following up on further.

**EDF:**

* A new informative note was submitted to the CRPD Committee on European issues, to give information to the Committee’s members on transposition and implementation of EU law at national law level. In March, the Committee adopted concluding observations on Hungary and List of Issues on the Netherlands, which include mentions to EU laws.
* EDF is active in the disability platform. EDF was consulted and will work closely with members of platform. Some suggested topics were not included however – such as on women and disability and young people and disability, despite the current EU focus on youth.
* Currently following up on important legislative files such as the Minimum Wage Directive, Pay Transparency Directive, Reform of EU Electoral Law, Regulation on Artificial Intelligence and Directive on combating violence against women.
* Digital Services Act: EDF expressed concerns about the outcomes 🡪 accessibility is not included. No real obligations were included regarding accessibility, which is seen as a missed opportunity.
* EDF is increasing its work on access to health: a policy paper on access to cancer screening for persons with disability was published in February.
* War in Ukraine: EDF is quite active, there is a member in Ukraine working on ongoing issues. EDF is looking at measures taken by the EU to support those affected by war.
* EDF proposes to set up a date for a meeting with the Commission in autumn. Could inquire about consultation with the framework, as well as information regarding their timeline for replies to the list of issues.

**EP (EMPL):**

* EMPL is drafting an opinion to LIBE committee report “Towards equal rights for persons with disabilities”, that is expected to be adopted in September 2022.

**EP (LIBE):**

* LIBE started drafting an own-initiative report on ‘Towards equal rights for persons with disabilities’, which will hopefully go to the Plenary at end of this year (November/December).

**EP (PETI):**

- Started work on draft opinion to the LIBE Report, presented in Committee on 17/05/22.

- The annual workshop on the CRPD is taking place in November.

- List of petitions received since last meeting:

1. **Petition No 1135/2021** by Gerhard Taulien (German) on improving the voting environment for elections across the EU, especially for the elderly and people with disabilities
2. **Petition No 1213/2021** by Dillon Crawford (Spanish) on step-free access in all railway stations in the EU
3. **Petition No 1246/2021** by Svetla Pencheva (Bulgarian) proposing the use of the Dyslexie font for all EU documents and other media
4. **Petition No 1342/2021** by Rufino Casares Duran (Spanish) on European disability card
5. **Petition No 0070/2022 2022** by Daniel Hans Jan Hinkelmann (German) on the inclusion of disabled people in the labour market.

Framework members shared initial thoughts on list of issues. The framework itself is mentioned paragraph 34; the question is posed in a manner that is fairly standard for the Committee. We will have to wait and see how the Commission replies to questions, including those on the Framework; the Commission can be expected to consult widely, including with the Framework, on its answers. EDF is working to disseminate of list of issues to members, to be compared to its joint submission to see what is missing. What is not included at this stage can be added in the next stage of the process. EDF will do a detailed assessment of what was included in the list of issues and what was not, also in relation to the Framework input. A lot of concerns are included in the document, which is positive.

1. **AOB**

It was agreed to aim at organising a physical meeting in September again, conditions allowing; location tbd.