**Minutes**

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

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

**8 November 2022, 10:00-12:00**

*(hybrid meeting)*

*Location: room FRS-03A001, European Ombudsman office, Rue Froissart 87, Brussels)*

1. **Welcome and Opening**

The Chair, Alejandro Moledo from EDF, opened the meeting.

1. **Approval of the Agenda**

The agenda was approved.

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

**Implementation**

The representative from ***EDF*** noted the programme of the European Day of Persons with Disabilities on 24 & 25 November, which will focus on young people with disabilities, the role of global instruments to defend disability rights and violence against persons with disabilities (including gender-based violence, people in institutions, Ukraine and bullying) and will again feature the annual access city award. EDF will a joint briefing with ERGO Network on disability among Roma people using FRA data. EDF will also use FRA data on disability for a report on LGBTI people with ILGA Europe. A conference on legal capacity will take place on the 19th of November in Dublin and a there will be a discussion with Member States on supported decision making and legislation in this area.

The representative of the ***European Ombudsman*** noted that the Ombudsman had received the Commission’s reply to the Ombudsman’s suggestion for improvement in an inquiry about the Commission’s ensuring deinstitutionalisation by using EU funds. The Ombudsman is also finalising an inquiry against the Commission about the rules on allocating double dependent child allowance for staff members who have a child with a disability. The European Network of Ombudsmen webinar on web accessibility had also taken place.

The representative of the ***European Parliament*** noted that a report on digitalisation and web accessibility had been drawn up and is currently being revised. The Parliament is also waiting for the Commission’s proposal on the disability card, which may come in 2023 and might therefore not be dealt with before the end of this legislative term. Rapporteurs will be appointed when it comes in.

The Parliament is also working on an opinion on violence against women and on an opinion on the rights of mobile citizens to vote and a proposal on domestic violence, all of which have links to the topic of disability as well.

The annual workshop on the rights of persons with disabilities will take place from 3 to 5pm on 30 November, with an intervention by Commissioner Dalli and Ombudsman O’Reilly as well as an expert and representatives from the Czech Presidency, EDF and FRA.

The representative of ***FRA*** noted that both pending disability-related publications (one on disability indicators and one on the disability outcomes of the Fundamental Rights Survey) are nearly finalised and should be published in early 2023. Its research on EU funds and fundamental rights is also nearly finalised, with a meeting aimed at getting the views of civil society organisations in Brussels on 1 December, after which it will issue its final report on this topic in the first half of 2023. Work has also commenced on the Fundamental Rights Report, which will as always contain a chapter on CRPD implementation.

It was agreed to share more in-depth information with other framework members before and after meetings, as needed.

1. **Discussion on meeting with COM & ENNHRI CRPD Working group**

The members discussed follow-up to the meetings with the ENNHRI Disability Working Group and with the Commission. Regarding the meeting with the Commission, it was decided that the secretariat would ask for a written request by the Commission to provide the relevant data related to resources allocated to the (members of the) Framework.

Concerning the ENNHRI meeting, it was discussed whether a survey could be sent to ENNHRI’s CRPD working group to give them the opportunity to send information on how they monitor national implementation of the new Disability Strategy (see below under point 6).

1. **Discussion on cooperation with the Council of the European Union**

Members discussed the need to reach out to the Council of the European Union to find out how the Council mainstreams disability in its work, both as an EU institution and as a part of the legislative process. Once the Framework meeting dates for next year are set, it was agreed that FRA will reach out to the Council secretariat to invite representatives of the Council to join a Framework meeting to discuss these issues.

1. **Discussion of the Framework’s work plan 2023-2024**

A draft work programme for 2023-2024, with some modifications and additions from the previous programme, was proposed to the members by the Chair and the Secretariat. It includes some new ideas, including cooperation with ENNHRI on monitoring at the national level on the EU disability strategy and joint letters to the Commission on topics of common concern. It might also contain new common research into disability mainstreaming within EU agencies. If this is considered useful, a working group can be established of framework members who have expressed an interest in working on this topic.

Members agreed it would be useful to send an update to the CRPD Committee on CRPD implementation in due course ahead of the formal review of the EU. It was also suggested that a report could be issued by the Framework at the end of each work programme period to allow interested parties, including the CRPD Committee, to see what activities had indeed been undertaken.

The secretariat will send a draft Work Programme around to members ahead of the first meeting of the Framework in 2023, where it will be discussed and adopted; ahead of this, members will be in touch in writing.

1. **Discussion on the chair & secretariat of the Framework**

Regarding the chair and secretariat functions of the Framework, FRA offered to continue functioning as the secretariat for the next two years. It was suggested that since the elections take place in 2024, it might be more logical for the European Ombudsman to take the chair in that year, and for the 2023 chair to go to the European Parliament, rather than to follow the regular rotation of the chair. The European Parliament representatives will discuss this possibility internally and get back to the other members on this.

FRA will send around potential dates for meetings in 2023 soon.

**AOB**

No further points. The meeting was closed.