

**Meeting of the EU Framework
to promote, protect and monitor
the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

**Wednesday 3 February 2016
14.30 – 16.00**

Rue Montoyer 30, 2nd floor, room MTS02X34
FRA participates via videolink

Minutes

Participants:

European Ombudsman (EO): Rosita Agnew, Astrid Eichstaedt, Elpida Apostolidou

European Parliament (EP): Monika Makay, Annika Pabsch, Orsolya Zara

European Disability Forum (EDF): Catherine Naughton, An-Sofie Leenknecht

Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA): Martha Stickings, Ioannis Dimitrakopoulos, Silvana Roebstorf

1. Welcome and opening

Martha Stickings and Ioannis Dimitrakopoulos opened the meeting and welcomed the participants.

2. Approval of the agenda

The Agenda was approved with the addition of a point on the Work Forum and the meeting between the EU Framework and national monitoring mechanisms under AOB.

3. Request for clarification/technical assistance from OHCHR/CRPD Committee

The EO circulated prior to the meeting a draft letter to the European Commission regarding the intended follow up to the concluding observations concerning the Framework and the possibility of requesting clarification/technical assistance from the CRPD Committee.

Members agreed on the overall approach and structure of the draft letter. Comments and revisions will be circulated and a consolidated version shared for final approval from all members.

Preliminary agreement was reached to address the letter to the Director General of the Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, pending a discussion with the Head of the Disability and Equality Unit. The letter will request a response by four weeks from its receipt by the European Commission.

Action Points:

- *All Framework members to circulate their revisions to the draft letter to the European Commission. The Secretariat will compile all revisions and circulate an updated version for final approval.*
- *FRA will inform the Head of the Disability and Inclusion Unit of the forthcoming letter and request informal input on the appropriate addressee.*

4. Exchange of views at the EP on 17 February and possible informal discussion

The EP briefed members on the upcoming exchange of views with the EMPL committee on 17 February (9.00-10.30). Each member will have approximately 8 minutes for their intervention.

Members supported the proposal for an informal discussion between Framework representatives following the exchange of views, with the participation of Diane Kingston (CRPD Committee member) and Jan Jarab (OHCHR Regional Representative for Europe). The informal meeting would be an opportunity for the incoming FRA director to meet other Framework members and for informal discussions regarding the request for clarification/technical assistance. The EP has reserved a room for this meeting.

Action points:

- *The Secretariat will prepare discussion points for the informal discussion after the exchange of views, which will be shared with all Framework members for comments.*
- *EDF and the EP will contact Diane Kingston and Jan Jarab regarding their availability to participate in the informal discussion (NB: both were contacted immediately after the meeting and indicated their availability).*

5. Invitation from COHOM to a discussion on the rights of persons with disabilities

Members welcomed the invitation from COHOM and signalled their intention to be represented at the discussion at a high level. As none of the proposed dates are possible for all members, additional possible dates for the discussion will be sought.

FRA informed that COHOM has been considering an exchange with the Framework for some time, and that the meeting would be an opportunity to orientate Member States about what the Framework does and to get the Framework's analysis of the implementation of the CRPD to date. The EEAS and the European Commission would also be present and may intervene in the discussion. More information is, however, required about the basis and content for the meeting.

Action points:

- *The Secretariat will contact COHOM signalling that Framework members intend to send high-level representatives to the discussion and requesting additional proposals for dates, preferably in May. Further information about the content and format of the discussion will also be requested.*

6. AOB

A. Possible participation of the Framework at the Conference of State Parties to the CRPD (COSP) in New York (14-16 June)

The EP signalled the interest of several MEPs in attending the COSP and suggested that the Framework itself could also consider attending; EDF informed that it regularly attends the COSP event and would also do so in June.

Members discussed that one way to ensure the added value of the Framework's participation would be to organise a side event, possibly in conjunction with other national frameworks. The agenda of the event is only likely to be available much closer to the time.

B. Work Forum and the meeting between the EU Framework and national monitoring mechanisms

EDF informed that the Work Forum is currently scheduled for 10 June 2016. As this is a Friday, the meeting between the EU Framework and the national monitoring mechanisms will likely need to happen on 9 June.

Action points:

- *EDF will check the current programme of the COSP.*
- *EDF will seek clarification from the Commission on the date for the Work Forum and the meeting between the EU Framework and the national monitoring mechanisms.*
- *Once the date of the Work Forum is confirmed, the EP will reserve a room for the meeting between the EU Framework and the national monitoring mechanisms.*

Next meeting

A date for next meeting of the Framework will be identified in due course.