**Minutes, EU CRPD Framework meeting with ENNHRI Working Group on Disabilities (ENNHRI secretariat, 14 May 2019)**

*Present on behalf of the Framework: Rosita Hickey (ombudsman office/chair), Robert-Jan Uhl (FRA/secretariat), Monika Makay (Parliament/member) and Marine Uldry (EDF/member)*

***Minutes:***

1. ***Introduction***
* The Chair, Rosita Hickey, thanked ENNHRI for showing flexibility in fitting the Framework’s annual meeting with monitoring frameworks into its own conference program
* She noted that the Framework was preparing for the 2nd round of monitoring of EU implementation of the UN CRPD by the CRPD Committee, and that the Framework was looking for input and ideas from ENNHRI Working Group Members on three issues (circulated ahead of the meeting):

1. What are the current gaps and priorities in CRPD monitoring (horizontal issues) in the EU (EU+EU MS)?

2. How do the WG/NHRIs monitor the transposition and implementation of EU legislation?

3. In the context of the next review of the EU by the CRPD Committee: what do the WG/NHRIs expect from the EU Monitoring Framework? How can we improve our work for the second cycle of review?

* She went on to explain that a hearing by the Framework is planned for Spring 2020 to get useful input to follow up on the UN CRPD Committee’s concluding observations and prepare for the next cycle of review of the EU by the CRPD Committee.
1. ***Discussion - the following points were made by representatives of national frameworks***
* It is important for those within national jurisdictions to be aware of EU ratification of the CRPD and its Optional Protocol
* A good overview of courts’ interpretation of the EU CRPD, including that of the Court of Justice of the EU, would be useful for national stakeholders
* It would be useful to find ways of assessing the impact of our work (both national and EU Frameworks) in the area of disability
* Comparable data is important so as to establish trends.
* It is important to seek to promote the adoption of the horizontal equal treatment directive. Can NHRIs play a role in helping to unblock this discussion in those Member States currently opposed to its adoption?
* The experience of those present suggests that the CRPD committee usually asks questions about issues related to the General Comments it had adopted. This might therefore be a good starting point for the Framework; similarly, a good starting point could also be the question of implementation of recommendations from the last round, which is always of interest to the Committee
* It would be useful to identify any legislative lacunae, both in terms of content of existing EU legislation and its implementation
* Although broader statistics may be hard to come by in some areas of disability, individual complaints and patterns of complaints could provide a good indication of any gaps in implementation
* Particular areas of interest to the Committee were listed as: 1) research projects the EU is funding on its own implementation of the CRPD 2) ensuring funds are not being invested in continuing institutionalisation 3) DEVCO external funding on disability 4) involvement of DPOs in design of projects being funded by EU as well as 5) political support by EU at global level (at the UN General Assembly, etc.) on disability issues, in particular on issues such as access to justice, legal capacity, children without parental care and other areas where UN resolutions have been or are being proposed
* The Framework could perhaps gather information on inclusive education, although it was noted that it could be difficult to establish who is not in the general or in the special school system at all
* It may be useful to raise the issue of non-ratification by the EU of the optional protocol, also in light of the fact that not all EU MS have ratified it (which could also be raised)
* The International Disability Alliance specifically, and DPOs in general would be useful for an (outside) perspective on what the EU does, also since DPOs often take part in EU funded projects
* In a meeting at the EESC, a COHOM representative had focused on sustainable development goals. The SDGs would also be an important issue for the framework; the SDG link will certainly be made by the committee
* It would be important to stress issues that could easily be overlooked. A true EU-wide overview would be challenging to obtain.
* The EU does not use the Washington Group questions, which the CRPD committee is recommending should be used; it would generally be useful to consider further the Framework’s use of statistics in its reporting.
1. ***Closing***

The Chair thanked the members for their very useful input and ENNHRI noted that it was looking forward to continuing cooperation in the future on this and other disability-related issues.