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| **Meeting of the EU Framework to promote, protect and monitor**  **the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) with the EU Focal Point for implementation of the CRPD**  **Tuesday 7 July 2020**  **15.30 – 17.00**  (WebEx meeting) |

**Participants:**

European Parliament (EP - EMPL, LIBE, PETI Secretariat)

Monika Makay (EMPL Secretariat)

Judith Burger (EMPL Secretariat)

Moira Andreanelli (LIBE Secretariat)

Katja Vatter (PETI Secretariat)

Karin Sauerteig (PETI Secretariat)

Rita Fober

Martina Nemcova

Miklos Gyorgyjakab

European Ombudsman (EO)

Marta Hirsch-Ziembinska

Maria Moustakali

Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA)

Robert-Jan Uhl

European Disability Forum (EDF)

Catherine Naughton

Marine Uldry

Focal Point - European Commission

Inmaculada Placencia Porrero

**Minutes**

1. Welcome and opening
2. Approval of the agenda
3. Update on relevant activities
   * Update from Focal Point on activities to implement the CRPD

- A staff working paper on the evaluation of the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020 is going to be published in autumn 2020. A wide consulation of stakeholders is on the way for the preparation of the new strategy.

- The Equality Task Force plays a critical role as it deals with horizontal matters and mainstreams work on disabilities within the Commission. It consists of one person in each Directorate-General and it has a secretariat within the Secretariat General. It is a very diverse group.

- There are no new developments as regards the nomination of an expert from the EU for the UN Committee. There is no such decision yet. However, that would be a possibility. No Member State has nominated an expert that we are aware of.

- During the discussion the issue of the formalisation of the EU Framework from a structure/governance point of view and funding was addressed; whether it considers that it needs more funds; whether it considers undergoing an evaluation.

- The Focal Point asked whether the EU Framewok members are currently working on a common project.

- The Focal Point also asked EP about their *modus operandi* within the EU Framework.

The Focal point provided an overview on the transposition work of the European Accessibility Act.

-Information was provided on the following meetings: Disability high leve group, WorkForum, Consulation on the European Disability Strategy, the conferece on the occasion of the European Day of persons with disabilities and the Access.City award.

* + Updates from EU Framework members on activities to promote, protect and monitor the implementation of the CRPD, including an overview of the Framework's Work Programme

- The EU Framework would welcome the nomination of an EU expert for the UN Committee.

- The EP will take over the EU Framework’s Chair in the beginning of 2021.

- The EU Framework is currently operating based on its Work Programme of 2019-2020. There is a good overview of each other’s activities.

- The most prominent recent common activity of the EU Framewok has been its input to the new Disability Strategy.

- The EU Framework will also publish a common paper on COVID-19 and the different initiatives its members took in view of the crisis.

- A possible future common project would be to look at the world after COVID-19: what could the crisis leave behind as a positive development/outcome? The EU Framework aspires to a common contribution to the UN Committee for the EU review, and it will work towards that goal. In addition, a common position in reply to the UN CRPD Committtee recommendations.

- There was a ‘tour de table’ concerning the recent activities of each of the EU Framework’s members.

- The EO reacts upon complaints and initiates strategic work on disabilities.

- FRA is currently working on a paper on progress indicators and a paper on promising practices on the implementation of the CRPD. FRA is in the process of mainstreaming internally its work on disabilities. There is a special section on CRPD implementation in FRA’s annual report.

- PETI had to cancel the annual event on the rights of persons with disabilities that was planned in March 2021. PETI is trying to organise the event in autumn 2020.

- Since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis, PETI prioritized all petitions related to it. Among them, there was a [petition](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2014_2019/plmrep/COMMITTEES/PETI/DV/2020/05-19/5_sir470-2020-EN.pdf) submitted on behalf of Inclusion Europe on the rights of persons with intellectual disabilities and their families during the COVID-19 crisis. Following discussing the petition in committee, a motion for resolution was [adopted](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/meeting-of-the-committee-on-petitions-16/product-details/20200608CAN55624) (plenary vote on 8 July, see adopted text [here](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2020-0183_EN.html))

- EMPL will release a report on the implementation of the Employment Equality Directive in the light of the UN CRPD. The rapporteur is Ms Langensiepen. The draft report will be available by the end of September and the EP resolution at the beginning of next year. The rapporteur involves DPOs and researchers in the drafting phase and throughout the procedure.

- In April, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on the EU coordinated action to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. In this resolution, the Parliament highlights that the measures adopted should respect the rights of persons with disabilities in line with the CRPD and that particular attention should be given to equal access to social and healthcare services. It should be ensured that community-based care and support services are funded and well equipped and staffed. The Parliament stressed that public information concerning the COVID-19 pandemic should be accessible to the widest range of persons with disabilities, and that persons with disabilities should be included in all income protection measures. Measures should be based on consultations and involvement of persons with disabilities, through their representative family members or organisations.

- In June, the EP adopted a resolution on the European Disability Strategy post 2020 based on an EMPL motion for resolutions.

- EDF is monitoring the impact of COVID-19 on persons with disabilities. A report will be published by the end of the year. EDF organised a series of webinars on the topic, involving its members and other actors, including NHRIs, equality bodies, the EP, FRA and the European Commission.

1. Discussion on review of EU by UN CRPD Committee

- The UN Committee’s review process is delayed. Possibly, the UN Committee could come up with a list of issues for the review of the EU in September 2021. It has conducted no review after the COVID-19 crisis.

1. Upcoming events 2020

Focal Point:

- Both the High Level and the Work Forum Meeting will take place online. The High Level Meeting is currently scheduled for 15 October 2020 and the Work Forum for 16-17 October 2020.

- It remains to be seen whether the European Day of Persons with Disabilities will be taking place.

- The Focal Point said that there will be another round of consultations for the new Disability Strategy in the fall.

Framework:

- A meeting of the national monitoring bodies has already taken place within ENNHRI’s framework.

- FRA will organise a consultation hearing with its stakeholders in the Fundamental Rights Platform on the implementation of the CRPD and on ideas for the new European Disability Strategy, possibly in October/November 2020.