

**Meeting of the EU Framework  
to promote, protect and monitor the UN CRPD  
Tuesday, 10 February 2015, 13:00 – 15:30  
Rue Montoyer 30, Brussels**

**Agenda**

1. Welcome by Ms Catherine Naughton, Director of the European Disability Forum, and Chair of the Framework's meeting and agenda
2. Political Meeting
  - a. Purpose and agenda of the meeting
  - b. Practical aspects of the meeting
  - c. Communication plan
4. Updates on work plan and website
5. Any other business

**Participants:**

European Ombudsman (EO): Tina Nilsson and Astrid Eichstadt.

European Parliament (EP): Monika MAKAY (EMPL Committee Secretariat), Orsolya Zara (Assistant to MEP Adam Kósa), Simona Urbaityte (Assistant to MEP Blinkeviciute) and Georgiana Sandu (PETI Committee Secretariat).

Fundamental Rights Agency of the EU (FRA): Ioannis Dimitrakopoulos, Martha Stickings and Nevena PENEVA.

European Disability Forum (EDF): Catherine NAUGHTON and An-Sofie Leenknecht.

European Commission (EC): Inmaculada Placencia Porrero, Annelisa Cotone and Tameick van Vuuren.

**Minutes**

**1. Welcome by Ms Catherine Naughton, Director of the European Disability Forum, and Chair of the Framework's meeting**

The Chair informed the members that the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities has tentatively reserved a slot on its agenda on 2 April between 15:00 and 15:45 for a meeting with the EU Framework in the context of the examination of the EU's initial report on the UN Convention. The Committee is interested to hear about how the EU Framework monitors the implementation of

the Convention at EU level, how it operates and what are the main challenges for its monitoring role. The Committee will send a formal letter to the EU Framework in the coming weeks.

## **2. Political Meeting**

### **A. Purpose and agenda of the meeting**

Based on previous proposals by the Chair and comments by other members, the EC suggested discussing the following purpose for the political meeting:

1. To bring together the political leadership of the EU independent Framework members to reaffirm their commitment to the promotion, protection and monitoring of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the EU.
2. To renew the commitment of each member to contribute to the Framework within their responsibilities and functions.
3. To endorse the Framework work plan for 2015/2016.
4. To confirm the commitment of each member to cooperate and support the EU in its review process by the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the follow-up to the review.

FRA and EO suggested putting emphasis on the commitment to support the implementation of the concluding remarks received by the UN Committee, according to the responsibilities of the members.

Various ideas were proposed for such a follow-up. EDF suggested organising a public hearing in autumn. FRA suggested devoting a meeting of the EU framework in the autumn to this follow-up.

Members agreed that the agenda of the political meeting will need to reflect the agreed text on the purpose. The EC suggested focusing the agenda on two items:

1. Reaffirming the political commitment to the promotion, protection and monitoring of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the EU;
2. Endorsing the work plan for 2015/2016, including the support to the review process by the UN Committee.

FRA stressed the importance of a concrete outcome of the meeting and that the agenda points should be linked to the intended outcomes. EDF suggested having a common statement or press release.

<p><b>Action point:</b> The secretariat will circulate the draft text on the "purpose" of the political meeting to the members for comments. Once this text is agreed, the agenda points will be circulated for agreement.</p>
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### **B. Practical aspects of the political meeting**

The Chair confirmed that the meeting will take place on March 4<sup>th</sup> from 14:00 to 15:00. The EP and EC will search for available venues.

The following participants were confirmed:

- EP: MEP Kósa, MEP Ferragut; attendance from the LIBE Committee was still to be confirmed. Each MEP will be accompanied by one assistant and staff from the different secretariats.

- EO: Emily O'Reilly and two additional staff members.
- EC: Michel Servoz, Director-General of DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, plus three members from the disability unit.
- FRA: Director Morten Kjaerum as well as one or two staff members.
- EDF: President Vardakastanis, plus two staff members.

The EP will arrange for the sign language interpretation.

**Action point:** The EP and EC will inform members about available venues. Members will keep informed about additional participants and any changes.

### c. Communication plan

Members expressed interest in the possibility of a press release and identified the following options:

- 1) A joint press release that includes logos of all framework members;
- 2) A joint press release issued by the Chair that will give visibility to the other members;
- 3) No joint press release, but separate ones using a core text agreed by all members.

The EP, EDF and FRA expressed preference for a joint press release including all logos. EO, EDF, FRA and EP confirmed that they will publicise the meeting on social media. FRA further suggested that if the meeting will be held in the EP, a short statement could be made through Euronews. The EP will check this possibility. The EO informed that they did not plan to issue a press release, but aimed at flagging the meeting on the Ombudsperson's public agenda.

#### **Action points:**

- The Chair will draft a core text for the press release and circulate it by 16/02 for comments.
- The secretariat will consolidate the comments received.
- The EO and EC will check internally the possibility of issuing a joint press release and will inform the other members.

### **3. Updates on work plan and website**

The Chair will circulate the work plan 2014/2015 with a new column for comments on the state of play (possibly also web links). Members will include additional activities for 2015-2016. All members agreed to give feedback on the work plan by 24 February.

Members agreed that the webpage will not go online on the occasion of the political meeting, but later on, once the various accessible formats will be available. The EC received comments on the draft text of the page and will send a consolidated version after the meeting for agreement. The EC asked members to add more hyperlinks to relevant pages of their websites. Once the text is finalised, the easy-to-read and sign language versions will be prepared. For the sign language version, the

secretariat will liaise with the EP and EDF. The easy-to-read version will be prepared by the secretariat and sent to members for comments.

**Action points:**

- The Chair will circulate the 2014/2015 work plan, already commented upon by EDF, to be returned with comments by 24/02. EDF will then prepare a consolidated version.
- A technical meeting may be organised in the last week of February to finalise preparations for the political meeting. The EC will propose dates for this meeting.
- The EC will circulate the revised consolidated text of the webpage for agreement.

**4. AOB**

A) The Chair reminded members that the current Chair and secretariat were appointed in May 2013, and are due to expire in May 2015. At the last framework meeting, it was suggested to extend the current mandates to ensure continuity during the review process of the EU report by the UN. The Chair emphasised the importance of engaging members in the rotation system in order to increase active involvement.

Participants agreed in principle to extend the current mandates until after the concluding remarks are adopted by the UN Committee. Formal agreement with this arrangement will be confirmed through silent procedure until 24 February.

B) The EC informed members that the Work Forum will be held on 29 April in Brussels and the meeting of the EU framework with national monitoring mechanisms was initially planned for the same day. EO informed the members of its meeting with national ombudsmen that will take place in Warsaw on 26-29 April. The EO asked to reconsider the date of the meeting with national monitoring mechanisms to avoid a clash between the two events. EC will check whether it is possible to hold the meeting on the morning of April 30 and will inform the other members.

**Action points:**

- The decision to extend the mandates of the current Chair and secretariat until after the concluding remarks are adopted by the UN Committee is submitted to silent procedure. If no objection is raised by any member until 24 February, agreement is presumed.
- EC will check whether the meeting with national mechanisms can be moved to 30 April in the morning and will inform the members.