**Hungarian Presidency event – Pat Clarke EDF Vice-president \_Speaking Points on the EU disability strategy after 2020, 13-14 March 2018**

**Who is EDF?**

* European wide organisations of persons with disabilities
* EDF represents 80 million persons with disabilities
* Have 99 members all over Europe, both national councils and European wide
* Represent all different groups of persons with disabilities, physical, intellectual and psychosocial disabilities and blind and deaf people

**CRPD**

* The European Union and its member states ae party to the UN Convention on the Rights of persons with disabilities
* The EU is the first regional organisation that has ratified an international human rights treaty
* In 2015 the EU was reviewed by the UN expert committee on the rights of persons with disabilities
* EDF actively participated in this review process through submitting an alternative report on the situation of persons with disabilities in Europe, and being in Geneva and meeting the Committee
* One of our main demands was the follow up to the current European Disability Strategy
* the EU received form the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities its Concluding Observations. The Committee recommended the EU ‘to adopt a strategy on the implementation of the Convention, with the allocation of a budget, a time frame for implementation and a monitoring mechanism.’

**EDS**

* The current European Disability Strategy has improved the lives of persons with disabilities in Europe significantly. We also wish to congratulate the Commission on the progress report on the midterm review of the Strategy and will also contribute to the review of the last years of the strategy that will take place next year.
* Building on the achievements of the current European Disability Strategy 2010-2020, a follow up Strategy is required to ensure the continued and harmonized implementation of the UN Convention both by the EU and by the Member States.
* At our event in the European Parliament last December, the European Parliament of people with disabilities bringing together 800 representatives from all over Europe we adopted a resolution on the next European Disability Strategy

**Our demands for next EDS**

We call on the European leaders to adopt a European Disability Strategy 2020-2030 that:

* covers all the provisions of the CRPD, with a budget allocated for its implementation and a well-resourced monitoring mechanism;
* is integrated into the follow up to the Europe 2020 Strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and the European Pillar of Social Rights;
* is in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals;
* is based on the Concluding Observations of the CRPD Committee;
* involves all EU institutions, bodies and agencies in the implementation and monitoring of the Strategy;

The Strategy should become the driving force of a new Disability Rights Agenda 2020-2030, and include 2021 as the next European Year of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the conclusion of the CRPD by the EU.

We call on European leaders to include the following actions in the European Disability Strategy 2020-2030:

1. Ratify the Optional Protocol to the CRPD which contains procedures to strengthen the protection of the rights of Europeans with disabilities.
2. Establish a structured dialogue with the representative organisations of persons with disabilities and their families with an independent budget line, for a meaningful consultation and participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organisations, including women, girls and boys with disabilities, as enshrined in articles 4.3 and 33.3 of the CRPD.
3. Establish an inter-institutional coordination mechanism and designate focal points in each EU institution, agency and body, as required by article 33.1 of the CRPD.
4. Monitor the application of the impact assessment guidelines to review existing and new EU legislation, policies and funding programmes to ensure compliance with the CRPD.
5. Review the declaration of competences to include all policy areas in which the EU has legislated or adopted soft law measures, and update the list of instruments to include all those relevant for persons with disabilities.
6. Address intersectional discrimination of persons with disabilities belonging to the following groups: women, children and youth, mothers of children with disabilities, older people, people in need of more intensive support deafblind people, persons with psychosocial, intellectual, cognitive and multiple disabilities, homeless people, ethnic minorities and refugees, LGBTI people, people of different religion and belief, and mainstream their rights throughout all actions in the Strategy.
7. Adopt legislation on the prohibition of discrimination on the grounds of disability, including multiple and intersectional discrimination, supported by adequate enforcement mechanisms.
8. Develop a comprehensive and accessible campaign to raise awareness about the CRPD and to combat prejudice against persons with disabilities, including women and girls, older people and especially persons with psychosocial disabilities and intellectual disabilities.
9. Provide training for all EU staff and professionals working in the EU on the CRPD and the human rights based approach, as well as on the accessibility of facilities, products and services for persons with disabilities.
10. Play an active role for the implementation and the monitoring of disability-inclusive Sustainable Development Goals.
11. Carry-out actions regarding emerging policy areas, such as refugees and migrants with disabilities, legal capacity & supported decision-making, and liberty and safety of the person.
12. Promote independent living and inclusion in the community, including through the use of EU funds to fund the development of community based services.
13. Adopt EU legislation to make Europe more accessible, including the European Accessibility Act and incorporating accessibility as a prerequisite in all new legislation and EU funded programs. Ensure correct implementation and enforcement of relevant accessibility legislation, such as the Directive on the accessibility of websites and mobile applications of public sector bodies.
14. Strengthen initiatives which promote freedom of movement for persons with disabilities, including passengers’ rights, portability of services, and establishing a robust European Disability Card.
15. Deliver on the obligations of the EU as public administration in relation to the CRPD.
16. Adopt the necessary mechanisms to guarantee that the EU institutions, services and initiatives are accessible to persons with disabilities and that accessibility is systematically ensured following a Universal Design approach.