

# How the next European elections could be accessible and include people with disabilities

## These changes were agreed at the 4th European Parliament of Persons with Disabilities in Brussels 6 December 2017



The European Disability Forum is an organisation of people with disabilities in Europe. In short, we call it EDF.

The European Disability Forum (the EDF) is now 20 years old.

There is a plan to make sure disabled people in Europe have the same rights and opportunities as other people. It is called the European Disability Strategy for 2010 to 2020.

This is important because there are about 80 million disabled people with different needs in Europe. There will be many more by 2020, around 120 million.

This paper is about the extra ideas the EDF want the European leaders to add to the new plan for 2020 to 2030.

They were agreed by disabled people who came to the 4th European parliament meeting on 6th December 2017 in Brussels.



1. Make sure the EU gives money to allow the United Nation's Convention of Rights for Disabled People (CRPD) to happen.
2. Make sure it is linked up with other big European Union (EU) plans such as the plan about social rights and the plan to make Europe a greener place to live and work.
3. All organisations in Europe should agree to help people with disabilities enjoy their full rights. They must keep records to show this too.

The plan must say that 2021 will be the next European year of the rights of people with disabilities. The EU is a member state with other European countries who have all signed up to make sure the CRDP is happening in practice in Europe.



### The EDF wants the European leaders to do these things

1. Make sure they agree the plan to give **better protection** for the rights of disabled people in Europe
2. Make sure all **disabled people have a voice** through disability organisations who can speak up for them, including women and children with a disability.



**3.** Set up a way of making sure all **organisations and countries work together** for the rights of people with disabilities.

**4. Check all new EU laws, rules and funding** to make sure they give people with a disability their full rights.

5. Check all new EU laws, rules and funding to make sure they give people with a disability their full rights. Make sure disability rights are part of all policies and plans in the EU.

**6.** Make sure **everyone with a disability has their rights**, including old and young, and people with complex disabilities who need more care. This should include homeless people and refugees who come to live in European countries because it is not safe to live in their own countries. We want them to make sure there is no discrimination against people from different races and backgrounds or with different beliefs and religions. Also people who have same sex relationships or who want to live with a different gender from the one they had when they were born.

**7.** Make sure countries have laws so if anyone is discriminated against, the person or organisation who did it can be punished.

**8.** Have a big campaign about how people with disabilities should have full rights and live in the community like anyone else. This includes people with a lot of care and support needs.

**9.** Give training to EU staff so they know how to make the CRPD work in practice.

**10.** Make sure that the goal to make Europe greener, where everyone can live well and work also includes people with disabilities.

**11.** Make sure it includes plans for new issues, such as refugees with disabilities coming to live in Europe, and also issues about disabled people making their own decisions.

**12.** Make sure that disabled people are helped with independent living and a full life in the community by making sure there is money for these plans.

**13.** Make sure the **European Accessibility Act** happens, making Europe more accessible and also websites and mobile apps of official government organisations.

**14.** Make sure that peoples with disabilities have the same **freedom of movement as everyone else**, and are allowed to to move to, live in, and access the welfare system of the EU



country they have moved to. The **EU Disability Card** should support this.

**15.** Make sure that the EU does everything it should to make the CRPD work for disabled people. The EU must make sure that people with disabilities can contact and use EU organisations and services easily.

**16.** Put in place practices to make sure that people with disabilities are able to access EU organisations and services in a consistent way.