



Register of Commission expert groups and other similar entities

Commission Expert Group

Name: High Level Group on Disability (E01259)
(Active - Group which operates on a permanent basis)

Abbreviation: HLGD

Policy Area: Employment and Social Affairs

Human rights

Justice and Home Affairs

Lead DG: EMPL - DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

Type: Informal, Permanent

Scope: Limited

Mission: To establish close cooperation between the institutions of the Member States, the Commission and the civil society on issues relating to disability and to facilitate the exchange of information, experiences and good practices. To facilitate the exchange of information, experiences and good practices in the area of disability.

Task: Coordinate with Member States, exchange of views

Contact: EMPL-RIGHTS-DISABILITIES@ec.europa.eu

Publication in RegExp: 04 Oct 2005

Link to Website: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1137&langId=en>

Last updated: 30 Jun 2017

Additional Information

Activity Report

Meeting December 2016

[Document 1](#)

(approx. 348 kb)

[Document 2](#)

(approx. 445 kb)

Activity Report

Meeting June 2016

[Document 1](#)

(approx. 327 kb)

[Document 2](#)

(approx. 333 kb)

Activity Report

Meeting October 2015

[Document 1](#)

(approx. 161 kb)

[Document 2](#)

(approx. 42 kb)

Activity Report

Meeting April 2015

[Document 1](#)

(approx. 33 kb)

[Document 2](#)

(approx. 199 kb)

Activity Report

Meeting October 2014

[Document 1](#)

(approx. 190 kb)

[Document 2](#)

(approx. 72 kb)

Activity Report

Meeting April 2014

[Document 1](#)

(approx. 186 kb)

[Document 2](#)

(approx. 38 kb)

Activity Report

Meeting October 2013

[Document 1](#)

(approx. 51 kb)

[Document 2](#)

(approx. 170 kb)

Activity Report

Meeting April 2013

[Document 1](#)

(approx. 60 kb)

[Document 2](#)

(approx. 167 kb)

Activity Report

Meeting October 2012

[Document 1](#)

(approx. 110 kb)

[Document 2](#)

(approx. 30 kb)

Activity Report

Meeting May 2012

[Document 1](#)

(approx. 140 kb)

[Document 2](#)

(approx. 17 kb)

Activity Report

The HLGD meets regularly, 2 times a year. It issues an annual report on implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, accompanied by a political note. Ad hoc reports have also been issued, e.g. on Quality Framework for the SSGI. Minutes of meetings are not public. The HLGD has been a fundamental element to support the implementation of the EU disability Action Plan (2003-2010), the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with disabilities (UNCRPD) and the new European Disability Strategy 2010-2020. It has been a forum for addressing disability matters with experts from the Member States.

Selection Procedure (members)

Although the HLG does not have a formal committee structure *stricto sensu*, the representatives of the Member States at the HLG are senior experts in disability issues nominated by their appropriate authority to represent the interests of their country. Each Member State can nominate one member and one deputy member. It is expected that the members of the HLG have a coordinating (inter-ministerial) role for disability issues within their country. The senior Commission representative will normally be the Director responsible for disability issues in the DG (since 1.1.2015, Employment, previously Justice). Like other members, the experts are invited to be members of the HLG according to the Council resolution of 20 December 1996 (97/C 12/01, attached) laying out the purpose and membership (cf. highlighted part). This is done so as to reach a maximum possible coverage of the field. Experts come from the organisations OF as well as organisation FOR the persons with disabilities and from organisations, which cover the areas mainstreamed in the EU policy. Finally, some non-member countries have also been given the opportunity to send their experts.

[Document 1](#)

(approx. 2,125 kb)

Internal Rules of Procedure

Expert groups usually operate in an informal setting without any formal rules of procedure. This is the case for this group. The Commission distributes a draft agenda in advance and submits minutes for approval. Working documents are shared via CIRCA.

Members

Type C - Organisation

| Name of Organisation | Category | Countries/Areas represented | Membership Status |
|---|----------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Confederation of Family Organisations in the European Union (COFACE) | NGOs | European | Member |
| European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities (EASPD) | NGOs | European | Member |
| European Disability Forum (EDF) | NGOs | European | Member |
| European Platform for Rehabilitation (EPR) | NGOs | European | Member |
| European Women's Lobby (EWL) | NGOs | European | Member |

Type D - Member State Authority

| Country | | Membership Status |
|----------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Austria | 2 Public Authorit(y-ies) | Member |
| Belgium | 6 Public Authorit(y-ies) | Member |
| Bulgaria | 2 Public Authorit(y-ies) | Member |
| Croatia | 1 Public Authorit(y-ies) | Member |
| Cyprus | 1 Public Authorit(y-ies) | Member |
| Czech Republic | 2 Public Authorit(y-ies) | Member |
| Denmark | 2 Public Authorit(y-ies) | Member |
| Estonia | 2 Public Authorit(y-ies) | Member |
| Finland | 1 Public Authorit(y-ies) | Member |
| France | 2 Public Authorit(y-ies) | Member |
| Germany | 1 Public Authorit(y-ies) | Member |
| Greece | 2 Public Authorit(y-ies) | Member |
| Hungary | 1 Public Authorit(y-ies) | Member |
| Ireland | 1 Public Authorit(y-ies) | Member |
| Italy | 2 Public Authorit(y-ies) | Member |
| Latvia | 2 Public Authorit(y-ies) | Member |
| Lithuania | 2 Public Authorit(y-ies) | Member |
| Luxembourg | 2 Public Authorit(y-ies) | Member |
| Malta | 1 Public Authorit(y-ies) | Member |
| Netherlands | 2 Public Authorit(y-ies) | Member |
| Poland | 2 Public Authorit(y-ies) | Member |
| Portugal | 1 Public Authorit(y-ies) | Member |
| Slovakia | 2 Public Authorit(y-ies) | Member |
| Slovenia | 2 Public Authorit(y-ies) | Member |
| Spain | 2 Public Authorit(y-ies) | Member |
| Sweden | 1 Public Authorit(y-ies) | Member |
| United Kingdom | 1 Public Authorit(y-ies) | Member |

Type E - Other public entity

Subgroups

| Name | Duration | Composition | |
|--|--|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Project Working Group on the development of an EU model disability card | | | |
| Type C - Organisation | | | |
| Organisation Name | Organisation Type | Countries/Areas represented | Membership Status |
| European Disability Forum (EDF) | en.NGOs | European | Member |
| Type D - Member State Authority | | | |
| Country | Public Authority | Membership Status | |
| Spain | Ministerio de Trabajo y Asuntos Sociales,Ministerio de Trabajo y Asuntos Sociales. | Member | |
| Slovenia | Ministry of labour, Family and Social Affairs,Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs - Directorate for Disabled | Member | |
| Slovakia | Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family,Permanent representation of Slovak Republic to the EU | Member | |
| Romania | Ministry of Labour, Social Solidarity and Family - National Authority for the Persons with Handicap,Permanent Representation of Romania to the EU | Member | |
| Portugal | National Institute for Rehabilitation | Member | |
| Poland | Ministry of Labour and Social Policy -Office of the Government Plenipotentiary for the Disabled,Permanent representation of Poland to the EU | Member | |
| Malta | National Commission Persons with Disabilities | Member | |
| Italy | Ministero della solidarietà sociale - D.G. inclusione, diritti sociali e responsabilità sociale delle imprese,Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri - Dipartimento per le Politiche Comunitarie - Ufficio Affari Sociali | Member | |
| Hungary | Ministry of Social and Labour Affairs | Member | |
| Greece | Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity,Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity - Directorate for the Protection of People with Disabilities | Member | |
| Germany | Bundesministerium für Arbeit und Soziales | Member | |
| France | Différents ministères français,Ministère du travail, des relations sociales et de la solidarité | Member | |
| Finland | Sosiaali- ja terveystieteiden ministeriö | Member | |

| | | |
|----------|---|--------|
| Estonia | Permanent Representation of Estonia to the EU, Social Welfare Department - Ministry of Social Affairs of Estonia | Member |
| Cyprus | Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance - Department of Labour | Member |
| Bulgaria | Ministry of Labour and Social Policy - Integration of People with Disabilities Unit, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy - Social Protection and Social Integration Directorate - Integration of People with Disabilities Unit | Member |
| Belgium | Agence Wallonne pour l'Intégration des Personnes Handicapées, Commission communautaire française de la Région de Bruxelles-Capitale - Service bruxellois francophones des personnes handicapées, Communauté flamande de Belgique, Communauté germanophone de Belgique, S.P.F. Sécurité sociale - Direction générale Personnes handicapées, S.P.F. Sécurité sociale - Direction générale Personnes handicapées - Service Politique des personnes handicapées | Member |

Statistics

Number of Members: 37

| | | | |
|--|----|-----------|---------|
| Type A - Individual expert appointed in his/her personal capacity: | 0 | female: 0 | male: 0 |
| Type B - Individual expert appointed as representative of a common interest: | 0 | female: 0 | male: 0 |
| Type C - Organisation: | 5 | | |
| Type D - Member State Authority: | 27 | | |

Number of Alternate Members: 1

| | | | |
|--|---|-----------|---------|
| Type A - Individual expert appointed in his/her personal capacity: | 0 | female: 0 | male: 0 |
| Type B - Individual expert appointed as representative of a common interest: | 0 | female: 0 | male: 0 |
| Type C - Organisation: | 0 | | |
| Type D - Member State Authority: | 1 | | |

Number of Observers: 0

| | | | |
|--|---|-----------|---------|
| Type A - Individual expert appointed in his/her personal capacity: | 0 | female: 0 | male: 0 |
| Type B - Individual expert appointed as representative of a common interest: | 0 | female: 0 | male: 0 |
| Type C - Organisation: | 0 | | |
| Type D - Member State Authority: | 0 | | |