



## **Taking scope and moving forward with the European Disability Strategy**

European Days of Person of Disabilities

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#EDPD2018

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# Context of the Strategy's creation

23 December 2010 EU ratified UNCRPD



The EU and its Members States must now take persons with disabilities into account when developing new policies and projects



The European Disability Strategy 2010-2020, framed as “a Renewed Commitment to a Barrier-Free Europe” was a direct response to the EU’s obligation to implement the Convention



# Impact of the European Disability Strategy

The Commission to push for legislation that implements the UNCRPD, such as:

- The Accessibility Act
- The Directive on the accessibility of the websites and mobile applications of public sector bodies
- The revision and adoption of legislation related to rail, maritime and road transport and the European Public Procurement
- Directives for public authorities to require accessibility in the technical specifications



HOWEVER

these proposals have not always led to sufficiently suitable policies

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This is the case with the Accessibility Act, where the final agreement saw the scope and ambition of the Commission's proposal significantly watered down

# What we need from a future Strategy

- 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**;
  - Be aligned with the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals**;
  - **Involves all EU institutions, bodies and agencies** in the implementation and monitoring of the Strategy;
  - Include **emerging policy areas** such as: refugees and migrants with disabilities, legal capacity and supported decision-making, liberty and safety of the person;
  - **Strengthen initiatives that promote freedom of movement for persons with disabilities**, including passengers' rights, portability of services, and establishing a robust European Disability Card;
  - Provide **coherence between internal EU work and external EU work**;
  - Support **organisations of persons with disabilities** to be further engaged in policy and advocacy work, in line with General Comment No. 7 of the CRPD Committee.
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# Barriers we will need to overcome

It will also be essential to adopt legislation on the prohibition of discrimination on the grounds of disability

The proposal of an Equal Treatment Directive remains blocked at the stage of the Council, hindering the implementation of the CRPD and the recommendations to the EU made by its Committee in 2015



# Conclusion

Current Strategy has shown a positive commitment from the Commission to fully implement the CRPD

A future strategy would need to see serious engagement and commitment by the Member States to deliver on commitments under the CRPD.

the Commission itself can take direction from its stakeholder consultation to evaluate the current Strategy

It can take the advice of DPOs in order to fill the gaps to CRPD compliance within its areas of competence, and to adapt to arising challenges for persons with disabilities.





**Thank you!**

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