

**Meeting of the EU Framework
to promote, protect and monitor
the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

**Friday 13 November 2015
11.00 – 13.00**

Rue Montoyer 30, 2nd floor, room MTS02X24.
FRA participated via videolink

DRAFT MINUTES

Participants:

European Ombudsman (EO): Rosita Agnew, Astrid Eichstaedt

European Parliament (EP): Monika Makay, Adrien Reina Hurtado, Annika Pabsch, Manuel Fraga Pedroche

European Disability Forum (EDF): Catherine Naughton

Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA): Martha Stickings, Nevena Peneva, Gabriel Toggenburg

1. Welcome and opening

Martha Stickings opened the meeting and welcomed the participants.

2. Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved without changes.

3. Chair and secretariat roles

EDF stated its view that the roles of the Secretariat and the Chair should remain separate in order to share responsibilities within the Framework. EDF underlined that the role of the chair should be minimalistic and focus only on chairing Framework meetings, while the Secretariat is responsible for external representation of the Framework. It proposed that the Secretariat be appointed for a term of two years, while the Chair would rotate every six months.

Members agreed that FRA would serve as both Chair and Secretariat in an interim capacity until June 2016.

During that time, the Framework's operational procedures will be reviewed. To support this process, FRA requested that other Members share their views on possible revisions to the existing operational procedures.

Action points:

- *Framework members to identify and notify FRA about changes they would like to propose for the current operational procedures.*

4. Possible request for technical assistance from OHCHR/CRPD Committee

The EO reported back on initial discussions with Jorge Araya, Secretariat of the CRPD Committee, about the possible request for technical assistance from the Committee. The Committee's view is that Article 37(2) UNCRPD, read in conjunction with Article 33(2) UNCRPD, allows it, in accordance with its capacity building mandate, to provide technical assistance to monitoring frameworks. Previously, a member of the Spanish monitoring body (CERMI) requested technical support. The request was submitted by the focal point, after which an expert from the UNCRPD Committee travelled to Spain.

Any request from the EU CRPD Framework should be sent to the Chair of the CRPD Committee, via the Secretariat to the Committee. Any costs would be covered by the Framework: to reduce costs a meeting could be scheduled in Brussels at a time when the identified Committee expert(s) are attending other meetings. One possibility could be to schedule a possible meeting around the time of the Work Forum.

The CRPD Committee will select the member(s) to provide the technical assistance. However, the Framework could suggest that the member(s) are selected taking into account their knowledge of the EU system, its institutions and structures and legal framework, as well as knowledge of Article 33(2) structures at national level. The rapporteur for the EU review could be involved.

The EO also reported on discussions with the OHCHR Regional Office for Europe on possible technical assistance. A request could be sent via email; there would be no cost implications if a meeting then took place in Brussels. OHCHR would be favourable to supporting the Framework, in line with the proposal for Treaty Body Focal Points at the national level.

If a request for technical assistance is sent to the CRPD Committee, the OHCHR Regional Office for Europe could be copied and support the process.

Framework members agreed that the technical assistance should include written input from the CRPD Committee/OHCHR.

Action points:

- *All framework members to inform the Secretariat by 27 November 2015 their position on whether the request for technical assistance (to be made by the Framework as a whole, or by a single member, and if so which...).*
- *All framework members to communicate to the Secretariat by 27 November 2015 their views on how the Focal Point should be involved/informed/consulted on the request for technical assistance.*
- *All framework members to send to the Secretariat by 4 December 2015 written input on the key elements to be included in the terms of reference for the request for technical assistance.*
- *EO to follow up with CRPD Committee Secretariat and OHCHR Regional Office for Europe on procedure for requesting technical assistance, cooperation between the CRPD Committee Secretariat and the OHCHR in providing the technical assistance, and possible financial implications.*
- *EDF to contact the European Commission to confirm the dates of the Work Forum and the meeting between the EU and national CRPD Frameworks, and inform the Framework.*

5. AOB

DG DEVCO/OHCHR project "Bridging the Gap: Inclusive policies and services for equal rights of persons with disabilities".

FRA informs about the project, implemented by OHCHR and funded by DG DEVCO. FRA will share the terms of reference once finalised.

EDF informs that OHCHR will present the project at an event on 3 December 2015 concerning international cooperation.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the Framework will take place after 24 January 2015. A specific date will be identified in due course.

Action points:

- *EDF to share details about the event on 3 December 2015.*