

TRAN Committee & the Rights of Persons with Disabilities



The aim of this document is to give general information concerning why and how the Parliament, and particularly the **Transport and Tourism Committee**, can improve the lives of persons with disabilities in the European Union and beyond.

There are **100 million persons with disabilities** (this number includes 99 million persons according to the [EU-SILC survey](#) of 2016 and [1 million persons estimated to be segregated in residential institutions](#) and therefore not counted on the survey). Persons with disabilities experience legal, physical and attitudinal barriers that hinder their independent living and full participation in all aspects of life on an equal basis with others.

European Disability Forum

The **European Disability Forum (EDF)** is an umbrella organisation of persons with disabilities that defends the interests of Europeans with disabilities. We are a strong, united voice of persons with disabilities in Europe that collaborates closely with the European Parliament in ensuring that the interests and needs of persons with disabilities are taken into account.

Disability Intergroup

The [Disability Intergroup of the European Parliament](#) is an informal grouping of MEPs interested in promoting the right policies for persons with disabilities within their work at Parliament and national level. It was established in 1980 and is an efficient network through which to communicate and coordinate work on disability policies. If you are interested in joining the Disability Intergroup, please contact alejandro.moledo@edf-feph.org.

UNCRPD

The **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** ([UNCRPD](#)) is an international human rights treaty ratified by the EU and all its Member States. It commits all who ratify it to implement and promote **the full realisation of all human rights for all persons with disabilities** through the adoption of **new political tools and review of existing policies**. In 2015 the CRPD Committee adopted specific recommendations to be followed by the EU in its [Concluding observations on the initial report of the EU](#).

The European Parliament is bound to take the UNCRPD into account in all its legislative work and processes. As a public entity, it is also obliged to ensure that citizens and personnel with disabilities have equal rights to their peers.

European Charter of Fundamental Rights

The **European Charter of Fundamental Rights** addresses EU institutions and national authorities when implementing EU law. Article 26 states that “the EU recognises and respects the right of persons with disabilities to benefit from measures designed to ensure their independence, social and occupational integration, and participation in the life of the community”. Article 21 prohibits any discrimination on the basis of disability. As such, the European Parliament has a double responsibility to ensure non-discrimination and promote the full participation of persons with disabilities in all aspect of life. [Read the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights](#).

Transport and Tourism – TRAN Committee

All people have the right to enjoy **seamless, spontaneous, accessible and independent travel**. This is in accordance with the EU Treaties that guarantee the right to free movement for all citizens as well as Article 9 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Despite this fact, persons with disabilities can still not fully benefit from this right as the transport system throughout the EU remains largely inaccessible.

EDF actively lobbies the European Union to move towards a barrier-free Europe for all to **achieve a fully accessible transport chain from door to door**. In the field of transport, this implies: accessible vehicles such as trains or buses, and surrounding infrastructure such as train stations; accessible information about a journey that is easy to understand for everybody; information about the level of accessibility of a certain mode of transport is made available and accessible for all users; If transport is not fully accessible: providing assistance from the point of departure to the point of arrival at the final destination of a passenger with disability, tailored to their specific needs, at no extra cost (assistance should also be available at intermediate points along the journey if changes are required), and disability awareness and disability equality training for all personnel working in the transport sector.

Political Priorities

- **Rail Passengers' Rights Regulation 1371/2007**: forthcoming triologue negotiations for recast should result in [strengthened Regulation where pre-notification for assistance is fully removed or considerably reduced](#). Additionally, assistance must be guaranteed at all times when passenger rail services operate to ensure persons' with disabilities equal right to travel.
- **Regulation 1107/2006 on air passengers' rights**: We look forward to the opportunity of strengthening the current Regulation and addressing existing gaps in the Regulation to sufficiently protect rights of persons with disabilities when travelling by air (e.g. issues of denied boarding, compensation of damaged or lost mobility equipment, etc.).

- **All Passengers' Rights Regulations:** Effective implementation and monitoring of all existing passengers' rights regulations is vital to ensure that EU law makes real difference in daily lives of passengers with disabilities.
- **Rail Accessibility Regulation (TSI-PRM) 1300/2014:** revision of the Regulation is anticipated next year and should ensure removal of accessibility barriers to rail infrastructure and rolling stock, for example harmonising platform heights throughout European rail networks.
- **Trans-European Network Regulation ("TEN-T Guidelines") 1315/2013:** upcoming recast of the Regulation should ensure accessible intermodal transport infrastructure through the whole TEN-T network.
- **Connecting Europe Facility:** ongoing dialogues should ensure that accessibility is part of funding criteria for the TEN-T network to avoid creating further mobility barriers to persons with disabilities.
- **European Accessibility Act:** Implementation of the transport provisions of the Directive (ticketing machines, check-in machines, websites, apps and real-time information of transport operators) will have important implications for transport accessibility in Europe.
- **[EU Disability Card](#):** We call for the EU-wide adoption of the initiative, also covering transport, to support persons' with disabilities right to freedom of movement and mobility.
- **Accessible tourism:** There should be binding, EU-wide rules or a label that guarantee a minimum of accessible accommodation, transport (both local and long-distance), and culture/leisure activities and facilities.
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Useful resources

- [Your Rights in the EU - chapter on Passengers' Rights](#)
- EDF webpages on [transport accessibility](#) and [accessible tourism](#)
- EDF webpage on the [European Accessibility Act](#)

Contact

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