

European Day of Persons with Disabilities



Speeches
in easy to read form

In this booklet
you can find some speeches of the event
in 'easy to read' form.

Easy to read is a way to make information accessible
so people with intellectual disabilities and all people
can understand it.

The speeches in easy to read form
are also available on our website here:

<https://bit.ly/2plzBxx>

Explanation of difficult words

You may find some difficult words in the speeches.
We explain these words below:

▪ **European Union**

The European Union is a group of 28 countries in Europe that work together to make things better for their people.

▪ **European Commission**

The European Commission is an important body of the European Union.

It suggests laws that can make a big difference in people's lives. It also does all the day-to-day work of the European Union.

▪ **European Parliament**

The European Parliament is also an important body of the European Union.

It works to make laws and decisions in Europe.

▪ **European Disability Strategy**

The European Disability Strategy is an important text.

It says what the European Union should do to make sure that people with disabilities in Europe get the same rights as everyone else.

▪ **United Nations**

The United Nations is an organisation that works to make sure that there is peace and security in the world. In short, we call it 'the UN'.

The UN tries to help all countries in the world to work well together and respect each other.

It also tries to make sure that all people have the same chances in life. For example, people with disabilities.

▪ **UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

This is an agreement that many countries in the world have signed.

It says what rights people with disabilities have and how countries can protect these rights.

In short, we call it 'the UN Convention' or 'the CRPD'.

The European Union and all its countries

have signed the UN Convention.
That means that they have agreed to work to make it happen
and to protect the rights of all people with disabilities.

Day 1 of the event

The first part of the discussion today
focuses on the European Disability Strategy.
The second part of the discussion
focuses on good examples from outside the European Union.
For example, Australia and Canada.

Speech of Marco Migliosi

Marco works for the **European Commission**
(see explanation on page 2).
His work focuses on the rights of people with disabilities.



The European Commission made an important text
to plan its work on the rights of people with disabilities
from 2010 to 2020.

The text is called the '**European Disability Strategy**'
(see explanation on page 2).

The strategy is soon coming to an end
and the European Commission wants to check
if it went well and what could be done better.

So they worked with a company
to make a study about this.

Organisations of people with disabilities
could take part in this study and say what they think.
They could say how the European Disability Strategy
was useful for them and what could be better.

We will talk about the results of the study later on.



Speech of Katerina Mantouvalou

Katerina works for the company that made the study for the European Disability Strategy. The company is called 'ICF'.



The study showed that the strategy has helped to make things better for people with disabilities.

But it also showed that there are still many problems that people with disabilities face in their everyday lives. For example, many things in Europe are still not accessible for them. That makes it hard for people with disabilities to take part in the community like everyone else.

So more work needs to be done.

The European Commission should now make a new strategy to plan its work for the next years.

This strategy will say what the European Commission will do to help people with disabilities to take part in the community like everyone else.



Speech of Catalina Devandas-Aguilar

Catalina works for the **United Nations**

(see explanation on page 2).

Her work focuses on the rights of people with disabilities.

People with disabilities should be able to take part in the work that the United Nations does.

For that to happen,

all things at the United Nations should be accessible for people with disabilities.



Sadly, many things in the United Nations are still not accessible so people with disabilities cannot take part in its work.

For example, the buildings of the United Nations may not be accessible and people with disabilities may not be able to go in.



The United Nations should work to change that.

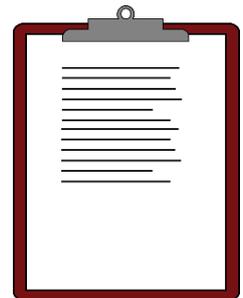
It should always take the needs of people with disabilities into account in all the work it does.

Speech of Ben Gauntlett

Ben is Australia's Disability Discrimination Commissioner. His work is to promote the rights of people with disabilities in Australia and to protect them from being treated badly or unfairly.



In 2011, the government of Australia made a document which says how it will work to protect the rights of people with disabilities. This document is called 'strategy'. The strategy says that people with disabilities in Australia should have the chance to:



- Take part in the community like everyone else.
- Go to court if they are treated badly or unfairly.
- Have enough money to cover their needs and have a good life.

Making this strategy was an important step that helped people with disabilities in Australia in many different ways.



But Australia still has some important work to do. It needs to work hard to make the strategy happen. To do this, it needs to collect some important information about people with disabilities, like:

- How many of them are women, men and children.
- What kind of disability they have.
- What problems they face in their everyday lives.



Knowing this useful information will help Australia to better plan its work to protect the rights of people with disabilities.

Speech of Yazmine Laroche

Yazmine works for the government of Canada. Her role is to make sure that things and services in Canada are accessible for people with disabilities and all people.



In Canada, they have an important law that aims to make things and services accessible for all people.

To make this law, the government of Canada first asked people with disabilities for their opinion. They didn't want to decide anything about them without them. They wanted to hear from them about their needs. People with disabilities could take part and give their opinion in accessible ways.



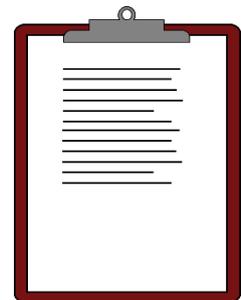
Hearing from people with disabilities helped the government of Canada:

- To understand the problems that people with disabilities face in their lives.
- To see what they can do better to help people with disabilities to take part in the community like other people.

The government of Canada has also made a strategy to make public services accessible for people with disabilities.

The work that Canada has done is very important and it can inspire other countries around the world to follow this example.

Countries can learn from each other and work together to make things and services accessible for all people.



Day 2 of the event

The discussion today focuses on sports and how to make them accessible for people with disabilities.

Speech of David Lega

David is a member of the European Parliament. At the European Parliament, they make important laws and decisions for people in Europe.



David has also been a champion in swimming. He has taken part in world competitions for swimming together with other swimmers with disabilities.



He knows very well how important sports can be for people with disabilities and all people. Taking part in sports helps people:

- To learn and try to get better.
- To become part of a team.
- To make friends.

- To grow their abilities.

That is why people with disabilities should have the chance to take part in sports like all other people.

Speech of Antoaneta Angelova-Krasteva

Antoaneta works for the European Commission. Her work focuses a lot on sports. Doing sports helps people to be part of the community. For example, taking part in a sport like basketball helps people to:



- Have fun.
- Work together.
- Make friends.
- Be a member of a team.

Sports are very important for people with disabilities too. They have the right to take part in sports like everyone else. Sports can help them to be part of the community and take part in activities together with other people.



At the European Commission, they work to make sports accessible for people with disabilities. For example:

- They give money to projects and programmes that try to make sports accessible for people with disabilities.
- They support organisations that help people with disabilities to take part in sports like everyone else.

They will continue doing this important work to make sports accessible for people with disabilities and all people.

Speech of Anne d'Ieteren

Anne works for the 'Belgian Paralympic Committee'. This is an organisation that helps athletes with disabilities from Belgium to take part in the Paralympics.

The Paralympics are a very important sports competition where athletes with disabilities from all over the world can take part and compete in different sports.

For example, tennis, running or skiing.



The next Paralympics will take place in 2020 in the city of Tokyo in Japan. Around 30 athletes from Belgium will go to Tokyo to take part in this very important competition. These athletes have different kinds of disabilities. For example, some of them have intellectual disabilities.

Many people watch the Paralympics and admire the athletes with disabilities for their passion and skills. This way more and more people understand that people with disabilities have talents, skills and abilities like all other people. They should not be left out just because they have a disability. On the contrary, they should have the same chances in life as everyone else.

Speech of Pietro Cirrincione

Pietro works for an organisation that protects the rights of people with Autism in Europe. He is also part of a football team in Italy that has players with autism. His football team is called 'Romulea Autistic Football Club'.



Taking part in football and other sports is very important for people with disabilities and all people. Sadly, often people with autism do not have the chance to take part in sports like other people.

That is why Pietro's football team is very important. It gives people with autism the chance to join a football team and enjoy playing football together with other people.

Pietro's team hopes to take part in many football competitions in Italy. With their work, they show how important it is that people with autism are not left out of sports and other activities in life.



More information

You can find more information about the European Disability Day on our website here: <https://bit.ly/2plzBxx>
If you have questions, you can send us an email at: EMPL-EDPD-ACA@ec.europa.eu

