This information is easy to read!
Welcome to Autism-Europe’s e-newsletter.

This newsletter is in easy-to-read language.

In this newsletter you will find 3 articles.

The first article on page number 4 is an introduction about the European Days of Persons with Disabilities.
The second article on page number 9 is about the speeches of Day 1 of the European Day of Persons with Disabilities

The third article on page number 24 is about the speeches of Day 2 of the European Day of Persons with Disabilities

You can send us ideas for the next e-newsletter.

If you have ideas, write us an email. Write to communication@autism europe.org
Autism-Europe joined the European Day of Persons with Disabilities meeting online.

Every year on 3 December is International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

On December 2 and 3 there was a meeting online.

The European Commission and the European Disability Forum carried out the European Day of Persons with Disabilities.
The European Commission is like the government of the European Union.

There is a group of 27 European Countries. We say “EU” for short.

The meeting was about how to make the lives of persons with disabilities in EU better.

Autism-Europe and its members attended the meeting.

The meeting had three main topics.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The first topic was how to better help persons with disabilities when they are sick.</th>
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<tr>
<td>The second topic was how to better help persons with disabilities when they need to use digital tools.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The third topic was about what children with disabilities need.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Some cities in the EU won a prize for accessibility.</td>
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</table>
A city has accessibility when all people can live in it, move around and use everything without problems.

The prize is called Access City Award.

The city of Luxembourg in the country of Luxembourg won the first prize.

The city of Helsinki in Finland won the second prize.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The city of Barcelona in Spain won the third prize.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leuven in Belgium won a special prize</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leuven turns down the sounds and lights in their fairs sometimes. This can also help people with autism enjoy the fairs.</td>
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</table>
Day 1 of the European Day of Persons with Disabilities

Helena Dalli spoke at the meeting. She is Commissioner for Equality at the European Commission.

A Commissioner is a person who is responsible for a field of work at the European Commission.

Helena Dalli talked about the plan for persons with disabilities in the European Union.
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<thead>
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<th>Step</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>The plan says what the European Union will do to help with these problems:</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>AccessibleEU will bring together ideas and tools how to easier go to places, get services and information</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>The European Disability Card is a small card, like an identity card.</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>The Disability Card makes it easier to travel across the EU and use services for persons with disabilities.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>The European Commission wants the card to be used in all EU countries.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>The European Commission carries out the Disability Platform.</strong> It is a new place for EU countries, disability organisations, and the European Commission to work together.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>A campaign will tell about the EU plan for persons with disabilities in 2022.</strong> The campaign will show how the EU helps persons with disabilities to have the same opportunities as everyone else.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Yannis Vardakastanis spoke. He is the president of the European Disability Forum. This is an organization of people with disabilities in Europe.</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
He said the Coronavirus had a big impact on persons with disabilities.

The European Union gave money to its countries to safe people from the Coronavirus. The EU should help persons with disabilities too.

Sadly, most EU countries did not help persons with disabilities in their plans against the Coronavirus. This must change.

With the Coronavirus, it is even more necessary than before that:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Image</th>
<th>Text</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image1.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Persons with disabilities can get better help when they are sick.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image2.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Persons with disabilities get help online and with digital tools as many things are now happening online.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image3.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td>Children with disabilities go to school with other children without disabilities.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Rodolfo Cattani spoke. He is part of the European Disability Forum.

He said health care may not be accessible for people with disabilities. For example, doctors’ offices and hospitals may have steps so people in wheelchairs cannot go in.

People who work at hospitals may not know how to deal with the needs of people with disabilities.
In some countries, hospitals may not even accept peoplepersons with disabilities.

The European Union and its countries should work to:

Make health care accessible to all people with disabilities,

Make it possible for peoplepersons with disabilities to access health care the right help when sick in any country of the European Union with no extra costs,
Collect/Gather information and numbers on that show how the situation is for people/persons with disabilities,

Ask for the views of people/persons with disabilities and their organisations when the EU makes laws and plans for better health care for everyone to help when sick.

Stefan Schreck spoke. He works for the European Commission. He is works on the plans to help everyone when sick focuses on health care in the European Union.

The European Commission works with all the countries of the European Union to make sure all people who live in them have get access to good health care help when sick. Amongst others, the European Commission made:
The ‘EU4Health’ programme. This is a programme that aims to make better health care better the help when people are sick everywhere in the European Union.

The ‘Europe’s Beating Cancer Plan’
Cancer is a serious bad disease. Many people in Europe have cancer and some die from it.

People with disabilities may suffer can have from cancer too so they should be part of this plan.

Lisa Waddington spoke. She is a law professor at the University of Maastricht in the Netherlands. She is an expert on the European law for the rights of people persons with disabilities.
The internet has made many things much easier for people. It could make things easier for peoplepersons with disabilities too.

For example, if they have access to technology the right digital tools and the internet, they can work and study online.

But some peoplepersons with disabilities do not have neither access to technolog digital toolsy andnor the internet. NorOr do they may not get support to learn how to use them.

The European Union and its countries have made some important laws and plans to promote access to technology for all people.

Sadly, most of these plans do not take into accountinclude the needs of peoplepersons with disabilities as they should.
The European Union and its countries should:

| Make sure that peoplepersons with disabilities have access to technologythe same digital tools and the internet like everyone else. |
| HearListen to the views of peoplepersons with disabilities and their organisations. This way they the EU can understand their needs and work to make technology accessible for themsure they get the digital tools they need. |

Humberto Insolera spoke. He is part of the ‘European Disability Forum’.
With COVID-19 the Coronavirus, we spend more time at home using technology digital tools and the internet.

We spend much of our free time in front of our screen televisions or computers watching the news, our favourite movies and series.

People Persons with disabilities should must have the chance to access enjoy all these programmes too.

For that to happen, all programmes, websites, televisions and platforms like Netflix should must be accessible.

This means, for example, news and other programmes should be available in sign-language so that people who are deaf can understand them too.
To make these things accessible the European Union has made two important laws:

- The ‘European Audiovisual Media Services Directive’.

- This law says that persons with disabilities must have the right to enjoy programmes, movies and series that we everyone watches on television or platforms like Netflix, too. They should be accessible for people with disabilities.

- The ‘European Accessibility Act’
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Image 80x37 to 169x68</th>
<th>This law says that persons with disabilities must have the right to enjoy televisions and platforms everyone uses to watch programmes, movies and series too. should be accessible for people with disabilities.</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Image 408x724 to 533x769</td>
<td>In all this work, the European Union should not forget to involve people with disabilities and their organisations what they need.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Image 100x576 to 218x694</td>
<td>Jakob Rosin spoke. He is the president of the Estonian Blind Union. This is the organisation of blind people in Estonia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Image 95x422 to 223x550</td>
<td>Estonian people with disabilities can do many things online from anywhere they are in the world.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
For example, they can sign a document on their phones or attend important meetings online and represent themselves from distance.

However, there are still websites and online services that are not accessible not every person with disabilities can use.

It is important that the European Union keeps working to make all public websites in Europe accessible for people with disabilities.
Day 2 of the European Day of Persons with Disabilities

Session 3: Children with disabilities

Many children with disabilities in Europe cannot go to school with other children.

Some leave school early because they do not get the right support to continue their studies.
Katarina Ivanković Knežević works at the European Commission.

Katarina Ivanković Knežević talks about the EU Disability Rights Strategy.

The strategy describes what problems people with disabilities face in the European Union.

There are other things the EU does to help children with disabilities.
There is a new Strategy on Rights of the Child.
There is the European Child Guarantee.

These strategies want all children to get good, inclusive education.

Inclusive education is when children with and without disabilities learn together.

The European Child Guarantee wants all children to have access to education and childcare, to healthcare, to good and healthy food, and to have a place to live.
Elisabeth Gosme works for ‘COFACE Families Europe’.

This is an organisation that works for the rights of all families in Europe. In short, it is called ‘COFACE’.

COFACE has made a group that focuses on people with disabilities and their families. This group is called ‘COFACE Disability’.

COFACE wants to make sure that all families can enjoy a good and safe life.
For that to happen, amongst others, the **European Union** should:

Give money to organisations that work to protect the rights of children and their families.

Talk with families and their organisations and understand their problems and needs.

Make sure all children can go to school together. For example, children with disabilities can go to school with other children.
Joost Korte is Director-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion at the European Commission.

In his speech Joost Korte says that the European Union needs to work to improve the lives and rights of people with disabilities.

People with disabilities have worse access to health care compared to people without disabilities.

People with disabilities must have the same access to health care as everyone else.
Children belong in their families and not in institutions

Families of children with disabilities need support too.

Families need support such as information and training.

Persons with disabilities must take part in the digital transition.
Digital transition means when many things in our lives are being done on the internet.

Speech of Ana Peláez. Ana Peláez is vice-president of the European Disability Forum.

Ana Peláez says it is very important that all the discussions and ideas from the conference are remembered.

Discrimination of people with disabilities must be dealt with immediately.
Persons with disabilities are sometimes denied access to healthcare altogether.

We have seen this since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

For women with disabilities the discrimination is even greater.

Violent health-related practices against women and girls with disabilities must stop.
Violent health-related practices are forced sterilisation, contraception, and abortion.

Many students with disabilities leave education much sooner than students without disabilities.

EU funds must give money to early childcare and education for children with disabilities.

We want the European Commission to prepare laws to stop violence against women and girls with disabilities.
We hope you have *enjoyed* reading this!

On this publication we follow the *advice* of the organisation *Inclusion Europe*.

We follow their *guidelines* to make the easy to read version of our e-newsletter.

This way we make sure the information is *as clear as possible*.
We use **pictograms** to help make things easier to understand.

The pictograms used in this e-newsletter come from the programme © **Picto-Selector**.

Some of them have been **adapted and/or created** by Autism-Europe.

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[http://easy-to-read.eu/](http://easy-to-read.eu/)