

## PRESS RELEASE

### Events to celebrate World Autism Awareness Day at the European Parliament

BRUSSELS, 13/03/2023 – Ahead of World Autism Awareness Day (WAAD), Autism-Europe is kicking off its campaign “**Building an inclusive society for autistic people**” in the European Parliament in Brussels at the end of March 2023. This year also marks a special occasion, as Autism-Europe (AE) celebrates its 40th anniversary, an opportunity to take stock and reflect on how to shape the future of society for autistic people.

This 2023 WAAD campaign will be an opportunity to reflect on the advances made so far for the autism community and the work that remains to improve the lives of autistic people. Therefore, AE is co-organising with **MEP Rosa Estarás** (EPP, Spain) two events at the **European Parliament in Brussels** to support an inclusive society for autistic people.

#### Photo exhibition at the European Parliament: opening on 28 March

First, a **photo exhibition** at the European Parliament will showcase the perspectives of autistic people and their lived experiences, as well as ways in which society could better work for them. The exhibition will display a selection of twenty-five pictures submitted by nine talented photographers from across Europe who have participated in AE’s WAAD 2023 photo competition. Available at the European Parliament for an entire week – from 27 to 31 March 2023 – the photo exhibition will be inaugurated by an opening event on 28 March (11:00 – 12:00 AM).

[Register here to attend the event on 28 March](#) (deadline for registration: 20 March 2023).

#### Conference at the European Parliament on 30 March

As part of its campaign, AE is also co-organising with MEP Estarás a **conference at the European Parliament**, featuring autism community representatives and policy-makers. Participants will have the chance to hear first-hand experiences from autistic people and, therefore, learn more on how to foster a more inclusive society and what key policy developments are needed to effectively support the autism community.

The conference will take place on 30 March 2023 (09:00 – 11:00 AM) at the European Parliament in Brussels, allowing remote access via Webex.

[Please consult the programme here.](#)

[Registration is open here](#) (deadline for registration: 22 March 2023).

## The WAAD 2023 campaign: 'Building an inclusive society for autistic people'

Both the photo exhibition and the conference are part of Autism-Europe's [wider WAAD 2023 campaign](#). AE invites its members, the autism community and EU policy-makers to join the campaign for **#AutismDay2023** and show their support for a better society for autistic people! From 2 April throughout the whole month, AE will start sharing on its social media channels the policy messages from its campaign manifesto ([available in English](#)), as well as content of the photo exhibition at the European Parliament.

**For more information and interviews, please do not hesitate to contact:**

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### Notes

**World Autism Awareness Day (WAAD)** was declared by the United Nations General Assembly in 2007 as an annual day to draw attention to the urgent needs of people with autism around the world.

**Autism-Europe** is an international association whose main objective is to advance the rights of autistic people and their families and to help them improve their quality of life. It ensures effective liaison among 90-member autism organisations in 40 European countries, including 26 Member States of the European Union. Autism-Europe operates on the principle of respect for diversity. It is important to use language that people are comfortable with: there are some terms that are likely to cause offense and that it is advisable to avoid using – check them [here](#).