

Evaluation of impact of EASPD on European Parliament resolution of 19 January 2017 on a European Pillar of Social Rights

1. Key Points

EASPD had a significant impact on the [parliament resolution on the European Pillar of Social Rights](#). This impact is evident in the changes that were made in accordance with [EASPD's recommendations](#).

EASPD was particularly successful in key areas:

- The role of The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) is strengthened, the principles and legal obligations of the convention is incorporated in the Pillar.
- The obligation to ensure accessibility for persons with disabilities in programs such as the Youth Guarantee is confirmed.
- The vital role of social services in achieving wider societal and economic prosperity recognised.
- The need for the Pillar to be integrated into economic policies and accompanied by mechanisms for implementation is highlighted.

2. The EPSR and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

EASPD called for the [CRPD](#) to be given a greater role in the pillar and for its principles to be mainstreamed throughout that pillar. Pointing out that the EU is legally obligated to do so. Consequently, the principles of CRPD are given a much more substantive role in the resolution and paragraph M includes: *“whereas the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) has been ratified by the EU and its principles should therefore be mainstreamed within the Pillar of Social Rights;”*



Paragraph 16 of the [European Parliament resolution on the European Pillar of Social Rights](#) puts further emphasis on the commitment to mainstream the [CRPD](#) throughout the pillar, that the Pillar must include:

- *the right to decent and barrier-free work in fully inclusive, open and accessible work environments and labour markets;*
- *services and basic income security adapted to specific individual needs, allowing a decent standard of living and social inclusion;*
- *guaranteeing free movement and the transferability of services between EU Member States;*
- *inclusive education and training, including provisions for adequate digital literacy;*
- *specific provisions on protection from exploitation and forced labour of persons with disabilities, particularly among persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities or persons deprived of their legal capacity”*

3. Social Services

EASPD stressed that social rights cannot be achieved unless they are accompanied by well-funded quality social services. EASPD called for the Pillar to promote quality in social services as a key instrument in implementing social rights on the ground and re-affirm the importance of having sufficient adequately trained and paid professionals in social care and support services to achieve such quality social services. EASPD was successful and the resolution highlights the key role that well-funded and well-staffed social and support services play in achieving social rights, social inclusion and economic prosperity.

4. Integrating the EPSR to EU Economic Policy

EASPD called for the pillar to be accompanied by investment to avoid the real risk of creating a Pillar that is positive on paper but has no real life impact. EASPD called for the Pillar to be an opportunity to re-consider economic policy and highlight the economic benefits of investing in services. The resolution echoes EASPDs concerns and calls for concrete mechanisms for implementation and investment. The need to ensure appropriate levels of social investment and safeguard welfare systems in light of new challenges is emphasised several times. Paragraph C of the resolution states



that the commitment made by the Commission of achieving a ‘AAA social rating’ can only be achieved by “ensuring relevant financial support at national and European levels” and paragraph R states that people-focused services “should not be viewed as a cost to the economy but rather as enabling factors of sustainable prosperity”.

EASPD suggested amendments	European Parliament resolution on a European Pillar of Social Rights
<p>“Understands that the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) is ratified by the European Union; thus recognises that the EPSR should reference and mainstream the principles of the CRPD throughout each policy domain”</p>	<p>“having regard to UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, ratified by the EU in 2010” and “having regard to its resolution of 7 July 2016 on the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, with special regard to the Concluding Observations of the UN CRPD Committee,”</p>
<p>Access to in work support</p>	<p>Paragraph 4 “in-work support for people with disabilities,”</p>
<p>particular attention given to disadvantaged groups most excluded from the labour market</p>	<p>Paragraph M “And people with disabilities may require additional measures to foster their participation in the labour market and to ensure decent living standards throughout their lives”</p>
<p>quality public services and tax deductions must be made available for households –in particular low-income households- to avoid institutionalisation and the risk of poverty of households</p>	<p>Paragraph 17 “considers access to quality and affordable long-term care services, including home-based care and independent living schemes, to be a right that should be upheld with the support of adequately qualified professionals employed under decent conditions; believes that adequate public services and assistance should therefore be put in place for households, in particularly those living on low incomes, to avoid institutionalisation and the risk of poverty”</p>
<p>highlights the essential role of social enterprises and not-for-profit organisations in providing quality and accessible services</p>	<p>“highlights the important role of well-equipped and well-staffed public sector providers and of social enterprises and not-for-profit organisations”</p>



there is a need for new legislative proposals national and EU level on ensuring access to quality care services	<i>“including legislative proposals as regards maternity leave, paternity leave, parental leave, carers' leave, access to quality care service”</i>
Involving civil dialogue	<i>“involving the social partners and civil society at the highest level”</i>
For the Skills Guarantee to be accessible and target vulnerable groups such as people with disabilities	Paragraph 21 <i>“ensuring full outreach to people in disadvantaged situations, including those with disabilities”</i>
Integrating the Pillar into the EU’s economic, fiscal and budgetary policies	Paragraph 2 <i>“underlines that the Pillar of Social Rights should be taken into account in EU economic policies”</i>

References

- [United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities \(UN CRPD\)](#)
- [EASPD opinion on the Draft European Pillar of Social Rights](#)
- [Suggested amendments to EP Draft Report on European Pillar of Social Rights](#)
- [European Parliament resolution of 19 January 2017 on a European Pillar of Social Rights](#)

Note to editors

The European Association of Service providers for Persons with Disabilities is a non-profit European umbrella organization, established in 1996, and currently representing over 15.000 social and health services for persons with disabilities. EASPD advocates effective and high-quality disability-related services in the field of education, employment and individualised support, in line with the UN CRPD principles, which could bring benefits not only to persons with disabilities, but to society as a whole. EASPD is accredited to the Conference of States Parties to the CRPD.

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