

Follow-up to the European Parliament non-legislative resolution on the EU strategy for the rights of persons with disabilities post-2024

- 1. Rapporteur:** Rosa ESTARÀS FERRAGUT (EPP / ES)
- 2. References:** 2025/2057(INI) / A10-0211/2025 / P10_TA(2025)308
- 3. Date of adoption of the resolution:** 27 November 2025
- 4. Competent Parliamentary Committee:** Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL)
- 5. Brief analysis/ assessment of the resolution and requests made in it:** The European Parliament's resolution on the EU strategy for the rights of persons with disabilities post-2024 evaluates progress made under the first five years of the strategy, such as the implementation of the European Disability Card, Parking Card, AccessibleEU Centre, Disability Employment Package, and guidance on independent living. Despite these advancements, significant challenges persist in several areas, including employment, social protection, healthcare, education, housing, and digital services. The resolution calls for more ambitious targets, clearer objectives, and mainstreaming of disability rights across EU policies.
- 6. Response to requests and overview of actions taken, or intended to be taken, by the Commission**

Paragraphs 1, 2, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 20, 58 -The Commission Work Programme 2026 announces the Communication “Enhancing the Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities up to 2030”, where it will propose new actions to continue advancing the rights, autonomy and participation of persons with disabilities across the Union. Input from consultation work, which took place in a fully accessible manner leading to 20% of contributions being received from the easy-to-read version, priorities indicated by other EU institutions as well as recommendations from the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities will be duly considered in the choice of areas and topics to be addressed under the Enhanced Strategy up to 2030. Synergies with other Union of Equality strategies will be sought, as relevant. The Enhanced Strategy up to 2030 will address monitoring as well as data collection and dissemination. In addition, the Commission is preparing a mid-term review of the Strategy which will outline the achievements under the first five years of the Strategy. Its results will feed into the communication on the Enhanced Disability Strategy, together with the results of the consultations with the Member States and stakeholders. Within the limits of the powers conferred to it by the TFEU, the Commission will propose measures in the fields where challenges remain.

Paragraph 6- Directive (EU) 2024/2841 is focused on facilitating short stays and visits by persons with disabilities in Member States. The

Directive does not apply to benefits in the area of social security and social assistance that are covered by other EU legislation: coordination of social security - Regulations (EC) No 883/2004 and (EC) No 987/2009; social assistance - Article 24 of Directive 2004/38/EC. At the same time, based on Art. 20 of the Directive (EU) 2024/2841, by 5 June 2029 the Commission will carry out an assessment on any remaining gaps relating to the free movement of persons with disabilities. The Commission shall take due account of the outcome of that assessment when deciding whether further action at Union level is required to address any such gaps.

Paragraph 7 - EU social security law coordinates but does not harmonise national social security schemes. Member States remain responsible for organising their schemes, e.g. conditions for benefit eligibility as well as for assessments of disability. The EU coordination helps to protect the rights of EU citizens with disabilities and their carers to social security benefits when they move across borders within the EU. Benefits, such as invalidity pensions, remain fully payable even if the beneficiary lives outside of the paying Member State, with the exemption of disability-related benefits categorised as special non-contributory cash benefits or social assistance, which Member States are not required to export under EU law. Depending on the social security coverage provided for by a Member State of insurance, persons with disabilities may receive long-term care benefits to help cover extra age- or disability-related costs. The Commission envisages proposing the European Social Security Pass (ESSPASS) in the 2026 Fair Labour Mobility package to enable cross-border verification of social security documents. ESSPASS would meet EU accessibility requirements and be inclusive, particularly for persons with disabilities, older people, and those with limited digital skills.

Paragraphs 8, 67-69- The Commission's Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Disability Strategy) prioritises employment and includes the Disability Employment Package (DEP) as a flagship initiative. The DEP provides guidance for employers, employers' organisations, employment services, public authorities, and civil society to improve the labour outcomes of persons with disabilities. The guidance aims to explain legal obligations and disseminate good practices. The study on alternative employment models for persons with disabilities, part of the DEP, examines different employment models across the EU. It also aims to clarify definitions and categories of these models, focusing particularly on supported employment in the open labour market. The Commission will explore the possibility of developing further guidance under the DEP. Moreover, with the OECD, the Commission monitors and assesses the existing entrepreneurship support programmes for people with disabilities. They regularly publish their findings in the "Missing Entrepreneurs" publication series.

Paragraphs 10, 92 - To strengthen the rights of all victims of crime, including those with disabilities, the Commission proposed a revision of the Victims' Rights Directive in 2023. In December 2025, co-legislators reached a provisional agreement, introducing for the first time comprehensive provisions ensuring victims with disabilities have equal access to electronic communication, support services, protection

measures, and procedural accommodations. The Commission will also support victims through non-legislative measures, notably the upcoming 2026-2030 EU Strategy on victims' rights, with actions for the most vulnerable.

Paragraphs 75, 123 - Notable progress has been made in recent years in collecting and publishing disaggregated data illustrating the situation of persons with disabilities in various life areas, thanks to introducing the Global Activity Limitation Indicator (GALI) in all EU surveys coordinated by Eurostat. All relevant statistics, including EU Statistics on Income and Living Conditions, are currently disaggregated by level of disability (severe, moderate, none), age and sex. In addition, degree of urbanisation (cities, towns and suburbs, rural areas) is also used in dissemination in conjunction with age and sex. Intersecting all these characteristics at the same time is not advisable due to the limitations related to sample size and granularity, especially when relying on general-purpose surveys. Feasibility of using a disaggregation by type of disability is currently investigated in those data collections where this disaggregation is available. The Commission intends to continue its collaboration with relevant bodies such as the European Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) and Eurofound to expand the regular collection of data on disability equality and inclusion. The Commission regularly publishes indicators disaggregated by age and sex through targeted contracts. It also funded the development of the [United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#) (UNCRPD) indicators by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, which address the Sustainable Development Goals and disability-related issues.

Existing surveys cover only persons living in private households, excluding those in institutions. To address this, the Commission supports Member States in conducting pilot and feasibility studies in 2026-2027 to include institutionalised populations in the European Health Interview Survey (EHIS). If successful, this data collection will follow a six-year cycle, which should be considered when assessing its usefulness for monitoring progress towards deinstitutionalisation. In addition, data quality is important under the EU Agenda for Cities, where social inclusion and equality dimensions, including for those with disabilities, are central for EU policy action. Through its EU Cities Platform, which the new EU Agenda for Cities (COM(2025)739, "An EU Agenda for Cities: Driving Growth and Prosperity") proposed to set up under the MFF 2028-2034, common indicators could be established to assess the impact of urban policies on different thematic areas building on existing monitoring systems. In this context, the Commission takes note of the need for disaggregated data collection regarding the progress on accessibility, affordability and adequacy of housing for persons with disabilities in cities and urban areas in the EU.

Paragraph 18 - The Commission's 2028-2034 MFF proposal prioritises funding for persons in vulnerable situations, including persons with disabilities. In its proposal for a regulation establishing the 'AgoraEU' programme for the period 2028-2034 (COM(2025) 550 final), the Commission proposed that the future AgoraEU programme, particularly its CERV+ strand, promote accessibility and protect and promote rights of persons with disabilities, supporting the EU implementation of the

United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). Also other future programmes, including Erasmus+, Horizon Europe, and Global Europe, should support inclusion, equal participation, and human-rights-based approaches. For the shared management funds under the National and Regional Partnership Plans, non-discrimination against persons with disabilities remains as a horizontal principle and accessibility is an obligation for when the Member States are preparing and implementing their Plans, and drafting the criteria for the selection of operations (articles 6 and 56 of the NRPP proposal for a regulation). In addition, at least 14% of the NRPP envelope was proposed to target social objectives, which amounts to at least EUR 100 billion. The NRPP proposal also includes safeguards ensuring respect for the rule of law and the Charter of Fundamental Rights notably via the horizontal conditions which Member States must fulfil in order for expenditure to be reimbursed.

Paragraphs 19, 71 - The European Social Fund (ESF) remains the EU's key tool to invest in people. The proposal emphasises support for persons with disabilities, addressing accessibility, independent living, and rights under the UNCRPD. Member States are encouraged to use the ESF, as part of the European Funds, for targeted actions promoting gender equality, accessible services, and active participation of persons with disabilities in society and the labour market. Whilst in the Commission's proposal there are no longer ESF thematic concentration requirements expressed in percentage terms, the recitals of the ESF proposal as well as Annex VI of the NRPP proposal specify that, beyond the requirement to contribute to all NRPP specific objectives, Member States must concentrate resources on four types of social measures, including social inclusion.

Paragraphs 22, 119 - As announced in the Commission Work Programme for 2026, work on the Enhanced Disability Strategy is currently ongoing. The Commission will assess how best to address existing challenges to the full enjoyment of the rights of persons with disabilities, taking into account the recommendations of the UNCRPD Committee and the contributions provided by stakeholders. The Commission does not foresee to publish an annual report on petitions concerning disability addressed to the European Parliament.

Paragraph 24 - AccessibleEU has delivered positive results in its initial years of implementation, and the Commission is satisfied with the progress achieved to date. Taking stock of the experience gained, the Commission is reflecting on the future activities of AccessibleEU in raising awareness about accessibility.

Paragraph 25 - Horizon Europe's 2025 to 2027 Work Programmes of Cluster 1 and Cluster 2 of Pillar II include topics on persons with disabilities, covering health, education, employment, independent living, and inclusion, with a total budget of EUR 101.5 million. Projects address quality of life, autonomy, labour inclusion, and social protection, incorporating assistive and accessible digital technologies, AI tools, and active involvement of persons with disabilities in research. The EU AI Act requires that AI systems which are made available and used in the EU should be developed with a high level of protection of health, safety and fundamental rights, and the Act strives for protection of vulnerable

groups, including persons with disabilities with the objective, or the effect, of materially distorting their behaviour. For instance, Article 5(1)(b) of the AI Act prohibits AI practices which exploit vulnerabilities of a person due to their (among others) disability in significantly harmful manner. Additionally, the AI Act classifies as high-risk AI systems that are intended to be used in, among others, recruitment, education and the access to and enjoyment of essential private services and public services and benefits. Such a classification means that the systems used in those fields need to comply with the associated requirements and undergo a conformity assessment, such as the requirement for providers of high-risk AI systems to establish a risk management system with the view of identifying and mitigating risks to health, safety and fundamental rights, including the right to non-discrimination and rights for persons with disabilities.

Paragraph 26 - Regarding algorithmic management, monitoring and recruitment of workers these are included in the first-stage consultation of EU level social partners on a possible Quality Jobs Act, which was launched on 4 December 2025.

Paragraphs 27, 28 - The Commission recognises difficulties for persons with disabilities accessing assistive technology. The Disability Strategy indicates an intention to examine the internal market for assistive technologies to identify the need for action.

Paragraphs 29, 32, 40 - The Commission closely monitors the European Accessibility Act's (EAA) transposition. Infringements were opened against most Member States for incomplete transposition, with 12 cases closed after compliance and 15 still ongoing due to remaining gaps. A conformity check will follow. The EAA is applicable in Member States since 28 June 2025, with a scope review planned by 2030. Every five years after, the Commission will report to the European Parliament, Council, and other EU bodies on the Directive's implementation, assessing whether it meets its objectives and whether to add or remove products or services. Further, the Web Accessibility Directive was adopted in 2016 and all Member States' public sector bodies' websites and applications needed to be accessible by 2021. In December 2022, the Commission published the evaluation of the Web Accessibility Directive, which identified a number of remaining gaps and issues, such as the shortage of digital accessibility expertise, the inability of feedback and enforcement mechanisms to reach their full potential, and the limited comparability of the monitoring results from the Member States, which may be taken into consideration for future policy initiatives. In accordance with the Web Accessibility Directive, the Member States are obliged to report periodically about the monitoring accessibility results of their public bodies websites and applications. In addition, the Commission has prepared a Digital Accessibility Action Plan 2025-2030.

Paragraph 34 - The chronic and life-threatening nature of rare diseases underlines the need for coordinated EU action to improve patients' quality of life. The Commission supports Member States in addressing non-communicable diseases and mental health through initiatives such as Healthier Together, EU4Health funding, and capacity-building actions, particularly for vulnerable groups. Encouraging national frameworks that guarantee free and timely access to essential therapies aligns well with

the Commission's broader objective to improve healthcare accessibility.

Paragraph 36 - The EAA sets accessibility requirements complementary to the Electronic Communications Code for initiating emergency communications and introduces new requirements for how the most appropriate public safety answering points (PSAPs) answer them. The Commission recognises that accessible emergency communications can be life-saving for persons with disabilities and pursues infringements where Member States fail to implement these obligations. Under European Standardisation Mandate 587, the Commission requested the European Standardisation Organisations (ESOs) to develop harmonised standards aligned with the EAA, including a new standard on the accessibility and interoperability of emergency communications. These standards will be made available through the ESOs once ready.

Paragraph 37 - The Commission's passenger rights proposals which are currently under discussion by the co-legislators are designed to strengthen protections for passengers with disabilities, including compensation for lost or damaged mobility equipment, free travel for accompanying persons when these are imposed by air carriers, and rights in multimodal travel. A targeted revision of the rail passengers' regulation is planned to complement the envisaged Single Digital Booking and Ticketing proposal.

Paragraphs 38, 39 - The Commission makes information accessible to persons with disabilities by requiring all its websites, online platforms, documents and audiovisual content to comply with EU accessibility standards, regularly testing and improving them, and publishing accessibility statements across the europa.eu website domain. It also supports inclusive participation through accessible publishing practices which are supported through extensive training of staff involved, sign language interpretation on request at events, creation of easy-to-read versions of relevant publications and public surveys, and practical assistance in consultations, Citizens' Panels and Youth Policy Dialogues to remove barriers for persons with disabilities.

Paragraphs 41 - 43 - The Commission supports improving accessibility for all, including persons with disabilities, in air travel. This commitment also extends to the level of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), where the EU has observer status. In 2025, the EU and Member States presented Working Paper A42-WP/184 at the 42nd ICAO Assembly, which led to amendments in Resolution A42-14. The Commission will continue working with Member States in ICAO technical bodies to develop a strategic action plan addressing growing accessibility needs in air transport. The European Union Agency for Railways (ERA) is preparing recommendations on priority topics for a possible revision of Commission Regulation (EU) No 1300/2014 on the technical specifications for interoperability relating to accessibility of the Union's rail system for persons with disabilities and persons with reduced mobility. Priority topics were defined in consultation with stakeholders, including persons with disabilities and persons with reduced mobility, the rail sector, and Member States. ERA's recommendations, expected in 2026 and 2028, will aim to further improve EU rail accessibility. The 2024 revised trans-European transport network (TEN-T) guidelines prioritise accessibility for all users, including persons with disabilities, when

developing infrastructure. This includes better integration of transport modes in urban nodes and multimodal hubs for seamless connections by 2030.

Paragraph 44 - Over the past five years, the EU has consolidated inclusive education as a core priority of the European Education Area, moving from general commitments to more concrete, system-level action. The Commission has been supporting the implementation of the 2022 Council Recommendation on Pathways to School Success through peer learning and funding opportunities, encouraging Member States to raise academic achievements, engagement and wellbeing of all learners in inclusive school environments. The Commission encourages the use of EU funds, including under Cohesion Policy, to foster equal access to mainstream non-segregated education, for example, by expanding the capacity of quality and inclusive mainstream facilities. Support is also provided to this specific target group via the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+).

Paragraph 45 - The Commission has recognised the situation of persons with invisible disabilities in the Disability Strategy and has included accessibility requirements that are particularly relevant for persons with different invisible disabilities in the European Accessibility Act.

Paragraphs 46, 65 - The Commission supports European Reference Networks (ERNs) in developing patient pathways, clinical guidelines, and improving early diagnosis and treatment for rare and complex diseases, while working with Member States to better integrate ERNs into national healthcare systems and ensure equitable access for patients across the EU. In parallel, the Commission helps Member States reduce the burden of non-communicable diseases through the Healthier Together initiative and EU4Health funding for joint actions and stakeholder-led projects focused on prevention, early detection, diagnosis and management. EUR 6 million has been allocated from the EU4Health programme for Member States to work together on a joint action – JADE Health – that aims to reduce the burden and stigma of dementia and neurological disorders through prevention, early detection and holistic care. Moreover, Horizon Europe’s 2025 and 2026–2027 Work Programmes include two health-related topics on persons with disabilities, covering care and long-term care, with a total budget of EUR 79.3 million. The names of the projects selected for funding will be known in Autumn 2026 for the 2025 topic, and in autumn 2027 for the 2027 topic. The projects will be included in Cordis once the Grant Agreements are signed. One focuses on improving the quality of life of persons with intellectual disabilities and their families (EUR 40 million), and the other on supporting independent living and inclusion across the life course (EUR 39.3 million).

Paragraph 47 - EU State aid rules provide several possibilities for Member States to support labour market outcomes for persons with disabilities. For example, State aid for the employment of workers with disabilities is possible under Commission Regulation 651/2014 (General Block Exemption Regulation, GBER) declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market and allowing Member States to grant aid without prior notification to the Commission. Pursuant to Articles 33 and 34 GBER, aid can be granted in the form of wage subsidies to the employer for the recruitment of workers with disabilities, as well as for

the compensation of additional costs of employing workers with disabilities.

Paragraph 48 - Member States have the competence to lay down the specific conditions for the conduct and organisation of elections, including to ensure that persons with disabilities can participate, in accordance with their national legislation, international obligations and applicable EU law. For elections to the European Parliament, certain common principles and procedures are set out in EU law, including the 1976 Electoral Act and the rules enabling mobile EU citizens to exercise their right to vote and stand in the elections to the European Parliament in their country of residence. Since 2019, the EU has promoted inclusive elections through initiatives like the European Democracy Action Plan (2020) and the 2023 Citizenship and Defence of Democracy packages. The 2025 Communication on the 2024 European Parliament highlights national good practices supporting participation of persons with disabilities, many using the Commission's 2023 guide on electoral inclusion. The Commission's recast Directive on the right of mobile EU citizens to vote and stand in elections to the European Parliament highlights that electoral information and procedures should be accessible to persons with disabilities, and that voting and candidacy arrangements must consider their needs, as well as those of older citizens. A similar approach was proposed for the proposed recast directive on the right of mobile EU citizens to vote and stand in municipal elections which the Council adopted on 26 May 2026.

Paragraph 49 - The Commission has decided to maintain for further political discussion the proposal for the Equal Treatment Directive, having considered the supportive position expressed by the European Parliament and by a large majority of Member States in the Council. Therefore, this proposal was retained among the pending legislative files in its 2026 Work Programme. The Commission will continue to support the Member States with all possible means to help find an agreement on this important proposal.

Paragraph 50- In the notice Guidance on independent living and inclusion in the community in the context of EU funding (C/2024/7188), the Commission encouraged Member States and stakeholders to develop supported decision-making services and invest in peer-support networks to replace guardianship systems and other restrictions on legal capacity. These measures aim to remove barriers faced by adults with disabilities – particularly those with mental health or psychosocial disabilities, intellectual disabilities, or complex support needs – and support their right to choose and make decisions about their lives.

Paragraph 53 - Council Directive 2000/78/EC prohibits disability discrimination in employment and requires Member States to provide judicial or administrative procedures to enforce equal treatment, including after employment ends. All Member States have fully transposed the Directive, and the Commission continues to monitor compliance. A report on its application will be published in the first half of 2026.

Paragraphs 54, 55, 57 - The EU supports high-quality inclusive education for persons with disabilities through funding programmes and

policy frameworks. For example, EU Cohesion Policy Funds can support accessible infrastructure and teaching methods and technologies tailored to diverse learners. Such support aims at fostering their participation in mainstream education and training settings on an equal footing as their peers. Inclusion is also one of the priorities of the Erasmus+ programme. The Union of Skills promotes innovative community learning spaces to reach vulnerable and low-skilled adults. It aims to guarantee inclusive education and training for learners with disabilities throughout life. The 2022 Council Recommendation on Pathways to School Success aims to improve learning outcomes for all learners, regardless of their socio-economic, cultural, or personal backgrounds; recommended measures include the support of learners with disabilities or special educational needs in mainstream schools through accessible environments and learning materials, diverse teaching methods, and teacher training. The European School Education Platform and eTwinning provide teachers, school leaders and policymakers with free access to training resources, peer-learning opportunities, policy guidance and examples of good practice that support equity, diversity, wellbeing and whole-school approaches across Europe.

Paragraph 61 - The October 2020 Council Recommendation on reinforcing the Youth Guarantee supports the transition of young people under 30 to employment by offering work experience and developing skills for a changing world of work. The Youth Guarantee addresses all young people, also those not in education, employment, or training (NEETs), with special focus on NEETs from vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities.

Paragraph 64 - In March 2024, the Commission proposed a Traineeship package comprising a Traineeship Directive (COM(2024) 132 final) and a Council Recommendation on a reinforced Quality Framework for Traineeships (COM(2024) 133 final). The Recommendation aims to strengthen the inclusiveness of traineeships by encouraging Member States to adapt programmes, workplaces, training, digital tools and equipment to trainees' individual needs, particularly for trainees with disabilities, including through reasonable accommodation in line with Article 5 of Council Directive 2000/78/EC. It also calls on Member States to improve outreach access to traineeship opportunities for all applicants, especially in vulnerable situations, ensure equal treatment and non-discrimination. The European Alliance for Apprenticeships (EAfA) brings together 43 countries to promote the quality, offer, and attractiveness of apprenticeships and supports the implementation of the 2018 Council Recommendation on a European Framework for quality and effective apprenticeships (EFQEA). Underpinned by the European Pillar of Social Rights, the EFQEA promotes quality, inclusive education and training and calls on Member States to ensure equal access and tackle discrimination in apprenticeship schemes. EAfA supports skills development for persons with disabilities, including a 2022 webinar on assistive technologies and accessible digital learning. Since 2024, its Community on Social Inclusion discusses barriers and opportunities, and a compendium of good practices on integrating persons with disabilities will soon be published.

Paragraph 72 - The Commission acknowledges the accessibility challenges faced by persons with disabilities and is committed to

encourage managing authorities in the Member States to strengthen coordination between the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and ESF+ to enhance healthcare and long-term care services for the most vulnerable, through the use of integrated approaches. As highlighted in the Guidance on independent living, one example of where EU funds can help is to support the capacity building for the preparation of coordination platforms to promote integrated social and health systems in Member States, with links to the labour market, education and law enforcement, and to ensure efficient use of EU and national funding. In addition, the provision of European Digital Identity Wallets provided under Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 as of December 2026 aims at facilitating access to public and private services online.

Paragraph 73 - Housing is one of the objectives proposed by the Commission for the MFF 2028-2034. Social and affordable housing could be supported through National and Regional Partnership Plans. In the European Affordable Housing Plan (EAHP), adopted on 16 December 2025, the Commission recognises the importance of housing challenges faced by persons with disabilities, as a major group of people in vulnerable situation. They are heavily impacted by an insufficient availability of social housing and difficulties to access affordable housing, both as tenants and landlords. Housing is often not equipped with accessible facilities and equipment. Spatial and social segregation affects persons with disabilities and makes them run the risks of continued institutionalisation. The EAHP identifies accessibility, adaptability for all generations and inclusive neighbourhoods as key quality elements of affordable, sustainable and quality housing. A new European Housing Alliance, announced by the Plan, will offer a cooperation framework between all levels of government and key housing stakeholders, including those representing the interest of persons with disabilities, to shape a new way of working on housing at EU level and connecting with the grassroots, in the 10 priority areas identified by the Plan.

To increase necessary investments and pool resources, the Pan-European Investment Platform for affordable and sustainable housing aims to offer a sustained framework for collaboration between public authorities and private investors. It will help develop scalable and innovative financing models and promote project aggregation, including for the benefit of people in vulnerable situation.

In the context of the forthcoming Anti-Poverty Strategy, the Commission will propose a Council Recommendation on fighting housing exclusion. The aim is to prevent and combat homelessness as well as housing exclusion in a broader sense supporting vulnerable persons, including persons with disabilities.

Within the Mid-Term Review (MTR) of the 2021-2027 programming period, in September 2025, the Cohesion Policy Regulations were amended. This showed how cohesion policy can adapt to changing circumstances. The mid-term review primarily focused on modernizing of cohesion policy to address new, urgent geopolitical and economic challenges, against a backdrop of heightened geopolitical uncertainty, accelerating green and digital transitions, energy transition, and competitiveness. It also allowed Member States to make greater use of

Cohesion policy funds for affordable and sustainable housing, alongside the support already planned for energy efficiency and social housing and development of skills in the areas such as civil preparedness, defence-related industries, cybersecurity, decarbonisation and Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP) related technologies such as those focusing on digital/deep-tech, clean tech, and biotech. Horizontal principles including respect of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, non-discrimination and accessibility, as well as the horizontal enabling conditions, including on the UNCPRD continue to apply. Accessibility for persons with disabilities must therefore be taken into account in the planning and implementation of cohesion policy programmes.

In parallel, the Commission revised the Decision on services of general economic interest to strengthen support for affordable housing for low- and middle-income households, including persons with disabilities. This revision reinforces disability inclusion, highlights relevant social services, and exempts accessibility-related compliance costs in social housing from notification requirements. These measures complement existing support for affordable social housing and long-term care infrastructure under the InvestEU Social Investment and Skills Window.

Paragraphs 52, 58, 74, 76, 85, 88, 104, 110, 111 - The Commission has established a strong framework to support the shift from institutional care to community-based and independent living. This includes policy initiatives such as the EU Care Strategy, the Right of the Child, the European Child Guarantee, and the Disability Strategy, along with funding and guidance promoting integrated, needs-based strategies with clear targets. These initiatives support Member State reforms through funding, mutual learning, and capacity building, in line with Articles 12 and 19 of the UNCPRD. The European Child Guarantee is a priority social theme in the ESF and NRPP regulations, ensuring visibility in negotiations on NRP Plans and resource allocation. The ESF+ already supports Member States in implementing the European Care Strategy, improving equal and timely access to quality, sustainable, and affordable services, with attention to children, disadvantaged groups, and persons with disabilities. It also helps develop a skilled care workforce, strengthening a flexible and resilient sector capable of delivering long-term care and implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights. Under the European Care Strategy, Member States reported measures supporting informal carers, and the Commission supported a World Health Organisation (WHO) online training toolkit on self-care and care competences for informal carers, which Member States are encouraged to use. The Commission's guidance on independent living calls for investment in inclusive services such as early childhood education, healthcare, accessible housing, work-life balance measures, personal assistance, and leisure activities. The Roadmap for Women's Rights prioritises work-life balance and high-quality care. Measures supporting informal carers are promoted, including a WHO online training toolkit. The European Care Strategy and the Council Recommendation on access to high-quality long-term care provide a framework for reforms and investments, addressing workforce challenges and supporting informal carers. EU-level actions include strengthening evidence and mutual learning, tools for assessing long-term care systems, a skills partnership

under the Pact for Skills, and a Social Dialogue Committee for Social Services. National implementation reports show that workforce is at the heart of the policy responses on-going or planned to implement the Council Recommendation. As announced in the Quality Jobs Roadmap, the Commission aims to present a European Care Deal in 2027.

Social inclusion and equality dimensions, including for those with disabilities, are key priority Under the EU Agenda for Cities. Through its EU Cities Platform, common indicators could be established to assess the impact of urban policies on different thematic areas building on existing monitoring systems. In this context, the Commission takes note of the need for disaggregated data collection regarding the progress on accessibility, affordability and adequacy of housing for persons with disabilities in cities and urban areas in the EU.

Paragraph 78 - The Communication on a comprehensive approach to mental health, adopted in 2023, supports Member States in promoting prevention and cooperation across sectors. It recognises that mental health is linked to many policy areas, including employment, education, research, digitalisation and culture. The Communication includes 20 flagship initiatives across different policies, with almost EUR 1.3 billion in available funding. In addition, the Commission has allocated EUR 6 million from the EU4Health programme to support joint action Prevention oriented Rights-based approach to Support Mental health (PRISM), helping Member States address the mental health needs of vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities or chronic conditions.

Paragraph 79 - As planned in the Action Plan on Basic Skills, the Commission will develop guidelines for curriculum development in Early Childhood Education and Care, which support the acquisition of basic skills early on and facilitate early detection and intervention of developmental delays.

Paragraphs 80, 84, 100, 108 - The Commission's Communication *A Culture Compass for Europe* recognises disability as a barrier to participation in cultural life and calls for inclusive, accessible cultural policies and sustained investment. It announces a 2028 report to support Member States in increasing participation of persons with disabilities in culture. Creative Europe's calls for mobility of artists and cultural professionals (Culture Moves Europe) are inclusive by design, and pay particular attention to the needs of applicants with disabilities. The scheme provides tailored disability support, including higher daily allowances, coverage for accompanying persons (professional or family), and virtual mobility options. Communication and outreach for the mobility action are fully accessible, with a dedicated staff member handling all applications from persons with disabilities. In the Commission proposal for AgoraEU, the Creative Europe-Culture Strand notably focuses on improving access to and participation in culture for all. The Commission aims at promoting inclusion and accessibility in and through sport. Erasmus+ Sport programme and the #BeActive initiatives address these aspects.

Paragraph 81 - Under the Digital Services Act (DSA), very large online platforms must assess and mitigate systemic risks from their design, functioning, and use, including impacts on users' physical and mental

wellbeing, especially for persons with disabilities. They must also consider the role of algorithms. The Commission is monitoring compliance and investigating addictive features and harmful content “rabbit holes” on Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, and Shein. On 6 February, it preliminarily found TikTok in breach of the DSA for failing to properly assess risks from addictive features and for ineffective mitigation measures affecting users, including vulnerable adults. Researcher access to data is another key DSA element. Through Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2025/2050, researchers can access platforms’ internal data to study systemic risks and mitigation measures, including impacts on persons with disabilities. The Commission has also launched a data access portal as a single gateway for applications and information for vetted researchers.

To tackle online abuse, the Commission adopted an action plan against cyberbullying on Safer Internet Day (10 February). While focusing on children and young people, it also highlights the vulnerability of groups such as young people with disabilities. The plan promotes coordinated EU protection, stronger prevention and awareness, and better reporting and support, including accessible resources and training for schools and non-formal education.

Paragraph 86 - The Council recommendation on high-quality affordable long-term care invites Member States to establish a quality framework for long-term care, applicable to all care settings and care providers, and underpinned by a well-defined quality principles and quality assurance elements. Many member states reported on measures enhancing quality standards and quality assurance for the long-term care sector.

Paragraph 87 - As parties to the UNCRPD all Member States and the EU already have the obligation to align their legislation to the UNCRPD. The Disability Strategy notes that not all Member States have acceded to the Optional Protocol and that the proposal for an EU Council Decision on accession has been pending since 2008. It commits to monitoring Member States’ progress and re-examining EU ratification accordingly.

Paragraphs 91, 94, 96, 98 - The Commission is committed to preventing and combating gender-based violence against women and girls with diverse disabilities online and offline. Directive (EU) 2024/1385 explicitly recognises that women with disabilities are disproportionately affected by this type of violence. Member States are required to take their vulnerability into account and ensure that they can benefit fully from the rights set out in the Directive. Moreover, the Directive recognises forced sterilisation as a form of violence against women. This means that where forced sterilisation is criminalised at national level, the Directive’s provisions on protection and support to victims, including access to sexual and reproductive healthcare services, as well as their access to justice, apply to cases of forced sterilisation. The Commission is committed to combatting the under representation of women in economic and political decision-making roles, including women with disabilities. The transposition deadline for the Women on Boards Directive expired at the end of 2024. The Commission published a guide on good electoral practices for persons with disabilities in 2023 and organised a Mutual

Learning Seminar on Women in Politics in 2025. In 2024, the Council highlighted that women with mental health conditions and psychosocial, intellectual, cognitive and neurodevelopmental disabilities are among those at the highest risk of social exclusion (CC 16366/24). Eradicating violence against women, ensuring political participation and equal representation, as well as upholding every woman's right to the highest standards of physical and mental health, including sexual and reproductive health, are amongst the key principles outlined in the Roadmap for Women's Rights adopted by the Commission in March 2025, and subsequently endorsed by all Member States, EU institutions, and several international stakeholders. The Commission's Gender Equality Strategy 2026-2030 adopted in March 2026 put forward concrete policy initiatives addressing all principles of the Roadmap for Women's Rights.

Paragraph 97 - A project funded under the 2022 EU4Health work programme on access to healthcare for persons with disabilities has recently been completed. It produced guidelines for Member States, country *fiches*, a cost-benefit analysis and a report on access to cancer care. The guidelines recommend fast-track and prioritisation measures to reduce waiting times and improve access to healthcare, including sexual and reproductive health services. The 2022 Council Recommendation on cancer screening also includes recommendations concerning persons with disabilities. Its implementation is supported by the EUCanScreen Joint Action, funded with EUR 31 million under EU4Health, which addresses barriers to cancer screening, including those faced by women with disabilities, particularly for gynaecological cancers.

Paragraph 107 - The Commission has supported Member States with knowledge, information exchange, and best practices through the Disability Platform, discussing recommendations from the Concluding Observations. Financing and organisation of the national bodies required by Article 32.2 remain the competence of each State Party.

Paragraph 113 - The Commission emphasises the vital role of inclusion for individuals with disabilities, recognising them as both contributors and beneficiaries in EU external programs, including humanitarian contexts. Disability inclusion remains a core element of external policies, with measures ensuring the Gender Action Plan IV (GAP IV) and other policies address disability issues. This includes the upcoming revision of the EU Human Rights and Democracy Action Plan in 2027, led by the European External Action Service (EEAS). Progress of disability mainstreaming is regularly monitored, notably through the OECD DAC Disability Inclusion and Empowerment Marker. In 2024, 46% of NDICI newly funded programs have incorporated disability mainstreaming to some extent, a significant increase from 26% in 2021. The EU continues to prioritise the rights of persons with disabilities in high-level dialogues with partner countries, advocating for and supporting their ratification of the UN CRPD. Disability rights are now a key element in political, human rights, and trade dialogues, as well as in relations with neighbourhood and candidate-enlargement countries, humanitarian action, and cooperation with multinational organisations. In 2024-2025, the EU addressed disability rights in Human Rights Dialogues with partners including the African Union, ASEAN and 22 partner countries.

Paragraph 114 - Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) includes persons with disabilities in disaster exercises, funds projects supporting vulnerable groups, and sets Disaster Resilience Goals for Member States focusing on the needs of vulnerable groups in disaster risk assessment, planning, and response. It has supported accessible response capacities, including rescEU shelters and coordinated evacuations of persons with disabilities, for example in Ukraine.

Paragraph 115 - EU supports persons with disabilities by mainstreaming inclusion across operations, strengthening global policy, and improving data collection in humanitarian actions. 2019 Operational Guidance on Disability Inclusion applies to all EU-funded humanitarian sectors, offering practical programming examples, tools to measure inclusion, and operational recommendations; its uptake has been reinforced through a dedicated e-learning launched in 2023. At global level, the Commission co-financed the 2019 Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Guidelines on Disability Inclusion and supported their dissemination and implementation through a project led by Humanity and Inclusion, alongside a stocktaking exercise scheduled for 2026. In parallel, the Commission aims at strengthening evidence-based, inclusive humanitarian programming by requiring since 2021 the collection of disaggregated data on beneficiaries with disabilities, by gender, and promoting the use of the Washington Short Set of Questions.

Paragraphs 117, 118 - The Commission remains committed to close cooperation with the European Parliament. The Commission, Parliament, and Council have established a trilateral dialogue on UNCRPD implementation, addressing technical and political aspects. Implementation of the Disability Strategy is regularly monitored through the Disability Platform, an expert group of Member States and civil society representatives, including persons with disabilities. The platform enables exchanges between the Commission, Member States, and stakeholders, while Parliament officials observe and report as liaisons in line with guidelines and rules on Commission's expert group. The Commission publishes regular updates on the Disability Strategy's actions and ensures democratic oversight, accountability, and effective disability mainstreaming through interinstitutional cooperation, reporting, and consultation. Persons with disabilities contribute directly via the Disability Platform, civil society organisations, and targeted or public consultations on initiatives affecting their rights. Transparency is ensured by publicly sharing agendas, minutes, and documents. To foster direct engagement, the Commission also organises the annual European Day of Persons with Disabilities, embodying the principle of "nothing about us without us." EU citizens, including persons with disabilities, can raise concerns through petitions and consultations, feeding into policymaking and monitoring of Disability Strategy implementation.

Paragraph 120 - The EU Agenda for Cities identifies seven areas of action for both the 2021-2027 and post-2027 programming periods, including social inclusion and equality. This area addresses social and spatial inequalities by promoting access to essential services for all, ensuring that everyone, including persons with disabilities, can participate fully in society.

Paragraph 122 - The Commission regularly publishes evaluation reports on the implementation of relevant legislation. Under Directive (EU) 2024/2841, by 2031 and every four years thereafter, it will report on the implementation of the European Disability Card and European Parking Card. Similarly, under Article 33 of the European Accessibility Act (Directive 2019/882), by 2030 and every five years thereafter, the Commission will report on accessibility of products and services, alignment of built environment requirements, effects on the internal market, and whether the Directive has achieved its objectives or needs scope adjustments or burden reductions.

Paragraph 124 - In its official traineeship programme, the European Commission upholds the principle of non-discrimination in the selection and treatment of trainees at the Commission irrespective of their nationality, sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or beliefs, disability, age or sexual orientation. Once selected, trainees with disabilities can request reasonable accommodation and disability allowance. The Commission will evaluate each request individually, basing its decision on the merits of each case.