RESOLUTION ON BREXIT: THE EUROPEAN DISABILITY FORUM BELIEVES IN A STRONG EUROPEAN UNION, WHICH INCLUDES THE UK

The Board of European Disability Forum (EDF) approved the following resolution during its meeting in the Netherlands on 13 March 2016:

EDF believes in a strong European Union (EU). Human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights are values embedded in the EU treaties. The EU Charter of Fundamental Rights is a clear and strong statement of human rights in the EU. Together, EDF and its members strive to make these rights a reality of all persons with disabilities. Today, this work is far from complete in Europe either at national or EU level.

The EU is the first Regional Integration Organisation to have concluded the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD). The UN CRPD is signed by all EU member states, and ratified by 25, bringing the EU and its Member States together with a common commitment to the rights of persons with disabilities.

Throughout its history, EDF has engaged in EU processes, promoting new legislation, engaging in the process and supporting the disability movement during EU enlargement, and advocating for the EU to be a place of human rights and freedoms.

EDF recognises the democratic right of UK citizens to vote freely in their referendum on UK membership of the EU.

EDF also believes that a common European human rights agenda is better achieved together, within a strong EU. We will continue to strive to achieve the goals set out in the EU treaties, the Charter on fundamental rights and in the UN CRPD. Freedom of movement is one of the fundamental right in the EU Treaties and should be guaranteed for all in the EU, including persons with disability.

Living through recent years of austerity, the rights of persons with disabilities continue to be undermined in the EU and in Member States. Together we are in a stronger position to fight this trend. We should work to remove barriers, not erect new ones.