



Council of the  
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#### NOTE

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From:	Presidency
To:	Working Party on Social Questions
Subject:	European Court of Auditors Special Report No 20/2023 "Supporting people with disabilities" - Draft Council Conclusions

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Delegations will find attached a set of draft Council Conclusions prepared by the Presidency with a view to the meeting of the Social Questions Working Party on 7 November 2023.

**European Court of Auditors Special Report No 20/2023 –  
“Supporting people with disabilities”**

**- Draft Council Conclusions**

**THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION:**

1. TAKES NOTE of the Special Report on Supporting persons with disabilities submitted by the European Court of Auditors (ECA), published on 12 October 2023, and entitled “Supporting persons with disabilities – Practical impact of EU action is limited”.<sup>1</sup>
2. AFFIRMS the importance of supporting people with disabilities across the European Union, in coherence with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), which entered into force for EU on 22 January 2011, and which has been signed and ratified by all Member States.
3. UNDERLINES the right of all European Union citizens to move and reside freely within the territory of the European Union, as well as their right to protection against discrimination on the grounds of disability.<sup>2</sup>
4. RECALLS the commitment to improve the rights of people with disabilities within the European Union, as set out in the Commission’s Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2023, which was welcomed and endorsed by the Council of the European Union and the representatives of the governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, without prejudging the future position of the Council and the Member States on concrete initiatives implementing the Strategy.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> This special report is available on the Court's website: <http://eca.europa.eu>.

<sup>2</sup> Articles 19 and 21 TFEU.

<sup>3</sup> Doc. 9749/1/21 REV 1.

5. RECALLS that, in its Strategy, the European Commission presented a comprehensive and ambitious framework designed to improve the lives of persons with disabilities in the EU and beyond and to advance the implementation of the UNCRPD. The objective of this Strategy is to progress towards ensuring that all persons with disabilities enjoy their human rights, and have equal opportunities, as well as equal access to participate in society and economy, and are able to move freely within the European Union, free from discrimination.
6. EMPHASIZES the importance of efforts and measures taken by all Member States to improve the situation of persons with disabilities and the Commission's role in supporting this process, while REAFFIRMING the Member States' primary responsibility in this area.
7. STRESSES that the implementation of policies supporting persons with disabilities across the EU will make the EU more inclusive and participatory, while making society more fair and equal.
8. CONSIDERS that implementing measures in order to guarantee the rights of persons with disabilities is a priority for the future of the European Union, and will help to reduce the gap in employment and the risk of poverty affecting persons with disabilities.
9. HIGHLIGHTS the importance and relevance of the Special Report.

**NOTES the concluding recommendations set out in the Special Report, whereby the Commission should, in the European Court of Auditors' view:**

10. Obtain more comparable data across the European Union.
11. Make progress in reviewing and adopting relevant EU legislation to ensure compliance with the UNCRPD.
12. Work towards the mutual recognition of disability status across the EU.
13. Measure and report progress towards employing persons with disabilities in the EU institutions.

**CALLS UPON THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION, in cooperation with MEMBER STATES,  
in the light of the recommendation of the Special Report, to**

14. Work with Member States towards the mutual recognition of disability status across the EU, while fully respecting the subsidiarity and proportionality principles.
15. Fulfil requirements such as the horizontal enabling condition on implementing the UNCRPD and recommendations from the European Semester when programming the 2021-2027 cohesion policy funds.

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