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European Union

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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

Subject: EU candidate for the elections to the United Nations Committee on the
Rights of Persons with Disabilities
Information from the Commission

Delegations will find attached information from the Commission on the above subject, with a view to the EPSCO Council on 7 May 2024 (Any Other Business item).

EU candidate for the elections to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The EU is a global leader in promoting and protecting the rights of persons with disabilities. It is the only regional integration organization to have concluded the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) to date.

The EU can nominate a candidate for the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD Committee) based on Articles 34 and 44 of the Convention. The Committee examines the States Parties' implementation reports, carries out a constructive dialogue with them, and produces targeted guidelines and recommendations for the implementation of the UNCRPD.

At present there are no representatives of EU Member States who serve as members of the CRPD Committee. At the proposal of the European Commission and in line with the Code of Conduct¹, an EU candidate can be proposed by the Commission and must be agreed upon by consensus by the Member States within the competent Council Working Group (COHOM). The candidate must hold the nationality of one of the Member States.

Following a proposal by the Commission, the COHOM Working Group discussed and endorsed the candidate Ms. Inmaculada Placencia Porrero unanimously on 29 November 2023. The candidate is a senior expert on the rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities for the European Commission. Ms. Placencia Porrero brings a unique combination of expertise, experience, and dedication that will significantly benefit the Committee and the global advancement of the rights of persons with disabilities. As the EU represents a diverse group of Member States with varying approaches to the rights of persons with disabilities, the candidate can offer insights into different policy models and best practices that will contribute to improve the work of the Committee for the benefit of all State Parties. A stronger involvement of EU expertise in the Committee will trigger a more effective implementation of the UNCRPD, both in the EU and beyond.

¹ Code of Conduct between the Council, the Member States and the Commission setting out the internal arrangements for the implementation by and representation of the EU relating to the UNCRPD (2010/C 340/08)

It is the first time the EU is putting forward its own candidate for a UN human rights treaty body, and the first regional integration organisation to do so. As such, the election also represents an important precedent. Her nomination as the candidate on behalf of the EU to the CRPD Committee has been transmitted to the UN for the elections in June 2024 during the Conference of State Parties. A comprehensive campaign is being carried out by the EU Delegation to the UN in New York with coordination, participation and support of election officers in national delegations. To that end, videos, a website and leaflets in various UN official languages have been developed. The continued support of all EU Member States during the campaign and at the elections in June would be important to strengthen the EU representation in the UN human rights framework.
