



**The European Day of  
People with Disabilities  
2008**



---

**European Commission Conference  
1 & 2 December 2008  
Charlemagne Conference Centre Brussels, Room Alcide de Gasperi**

**Draft Programme 14/10/2008**

**Acting locally for a society for all**



# The European Day of People with Disabilities 2008



**Monday, 1 December 2008**

<b>08.00 – 10.15</b>	<b>Participants' registration</b>
<b>09.00 – 10.15</b>	<b>Welcome coffee</b>
<b>10.15 – 10.45</b>	<b>Conference opening: From EU to the people and from the people to EU</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Vladimir Špidla</b>, European Commission, Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities ( TBC)</li><li>• <b>Yannis Vardakastanis</b>, President of the European Disability Forum</li><li>• French Presidency Contribution (tbc)</li></ul>
<b>10.45 – 11.15</b>	<b>Setting the scene: the issues at stake</b> Chaired ( + Introduction) by Ms. Belinda Pyke, Director, European Commission
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Key note speaker</li><li>• <b>Rudolf Niessler</b>, director DG Regio (tbc)</li></ul>
<b>11.15 – 12.00</b>	<b>Plenary Session 1: Disability rights through mainstreaming at regional and local level: putting the UN Convention into practice</b> Chaired by <b>Johan Ten Geuzendam</b> , DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, Head of Unit for Integration of People with Disabilities and <b>Carlotta Besozzi</b> , Director of the European Disability Forum
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• City of Jaen (users association) tbc</li><li>• From New York to Budapest: <b>Csaba Horvath</b>, Deputy Mayor for Human and Urban Policies</li><li>• Disability policy planning – Experiences with Agenda 22. <b>Nolan Quigley</b>, International Policy and Campaigns Manager, EDAMAT</li><li>• Cooperation between local disability organisations and local authorities: <b>Martijn Da Costa</b>, Taskforce Handicap ( NL)</li></ul>



## The European Day of People with Disabilities 2008



<b>12.00 – 13.00</b>	<b>Plenary debate with the audience</b>
<b>13.00 – 14.30</b>	<b>Lunch Buffet, Charlemagne Conference Centre</b>
<b>14.30 – 15.15</b>	<b>Plenary Session 2: Involving persons with disabilities in all decisions affecting them</b> Chaired by <b>Inmaculada Placencia Porrero</b> , DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, Deputy Head of Unit for Integration of People with Disabilities and <b>Maria Nyman</b> , Policy Officer in the European Disability Forum
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Dothe Stief Christensen</b> and <b>Freddy Nielsen</b> Denmark (training pilot project to local authorities on the UN Convention)</li><li>• <b>Marily Christofi</b> (ESF and ERDF monitoring committees)</li><li>• <b>Jean Paul Bore</b>, vice president of the Regional Council Languedoc Roussillon .Member of the Committee of Regions of Europe</li></ul>
<b>15.15 – 16.15</b>	<b>Plenary debate with the audience</b>
<b>16.15 – 16.45</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>
<b>16.45 - 17.15</b>	<b>First day conference closing:</b> Contribution of the Committee of Regions concerning "Acting locally for a society for all"
<b>19.15 – 23.00</b>	<b>Gala Dinner, Brussels</b>



## The European Day of People with Disabilities 2008



**Tuesday, 2 December 2008**

<b>10.00 – 10.45</b>	<b>Plenary Session 3: From EU to local community and from local community to EU</b> Chaired by Johan ten Geuzendam, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, Head of Unit for Integration of People with Disabilities and Carlotta Besozzi, Director of the European Disability Forum
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Example of Pilot Project: European Network for accessible tourism : ENAT <b>Ivor Ambrose</b></li><li>• Accessible infrastructure in Münster through Public Procurement: <b>Peter Neumann</b>, Münster</li><li>• Air passengers with disabilities at the airport: <b>Antonio Pascale</b>, Capodichino Airport, Napoli</li></ul>
<b>10.45 – 11.15</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>
<b>11.15 – 12.15</b>	<b>Plenary debate with the Commission, Member States and industry representatives, the panel and the audience</b> launched by <b>Richard Howitt</b> , President of the European Parliament Disability Intergroup, Member of the Employment and Social Affairs Committee, European Parliament
<b>12.15 – 13.00</b>	<b>Conference conclusions</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• European Disability Forum concluding remarks: <b>John Patrick Clarke</b>, member of the EDF Executive Committee</li><li>• <b>Nikolaus van der Pas</b>, European Commission, Director General of DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities</li></ul>
<b>13.00</b>	<b>Farewell Cocktail and Participants Departure</b>