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MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION
EQUALITY

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Brussels, 30 May 2024

Dear Minister,

The European Pillar of Social Rights through its principle 17 recognizes the right of persons with disabilities to participate in the labour market ⁽¹⁾. In this context, the Social Scoreboard ⁽²⁾ monitors the gap in employment between persons with and without disabilities, which stood at 21.4 pps in 2022.

The Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030 ⁽³⁾ identifies employment of persons with disabilities as one of the key areas for action. This is due to persistent lower-than-average labour market outcomes of persons with disabilities and an overall lack of substantial improvement in the situation over the last decade, as identified by the disability employment gap indicator of the Social Scoreboard.

The Strategy recalls that participation in employment is the best way to ensure the economic autonomy and social inclusion for persons with disabilities. Increasing quality employment of persons with disabilities is important not only to achieve an inclusive labour market but also, in the context of labour shortages, to achieve higher employment in line with the EU headline target of at least 78% of people aged 20 to 64 years in employment by 2030.

(1) 'People with disabilities have the right to income support that ensures living in dignity, services that enable them to participate in the labour market and in society, and a work environment adapted to their needs'.

(2) See the [Social Scoreboard presented on the webpage of Eurostat](#).

(3) European Commission ([COM\(2021\) 101 final](#)): Union of Equality: Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030

Mr Tiit RIISALO
Minister of Economic Affairs and Information Technology (in charge of employment policy)
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In the Strategy the Commission calls on Member States to establish by 2024 targets for increasing the employment rate of persons with disabilities and reducing the employment rate gaps between persons with and without disabilities (referred to below as employment targets). It also invites Member States to set targets for the participation of persons with disabilities in learning.

The Council Conclusions of 8 December 2022 on the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the labour market ⁽⁴⁾ reiterated this call and invited Member States to consider policies in all areas to implement the calls of the Strategy.

In the context of assessing the progress with implementation of the Strategy, please inform us by 30 June 2024 about all the actions you have carried out to establish employment targets for persons with disabilities, in line with the guidance attached in Annex 1.

The contact person in DG EMPL is Monika Chaba (Monika.Chaba@ec.europa.eu). Please provide the information to her by e-mail.

Yours faithfully,

Helena Dalli
(e-signed)

Enclosure: **Guidance for reporting national employment targets for persons with disabilities**

c.c.: E. Gerhards, N. Bednarski (CAB Dalli)
A. Sukova, F. Barabas Komives, K. Ivankovic Knezevic, L. Davoine, P. Kolev, M. Chaba (DG EMPL)

⁽⁴⁾ Council Conclusions of the 8 December 2022 on the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the labour market, [pdf \(europa.eu\)](#)