

*Presidente Roberta Metsola
ENNEADI European Network in Nutritional Education for Acquired Disabilities.*



Bruxelles, 18th October 2022

Dear friends,

I would like to address you a message of inclusion and hope.

There are more than 100 million people with disabilities in all Europe. They are European citizens, and they also are the driving force of our job as Euro parliament deputies. The European Parliament is the only UE institution directly elected; thus, they rely on us to ensure their rights and defend their freedom. Discrimination has no place in Europe, and I confirm here my commitment to build an EU without barriers today.

Initiatives like yours encourage education, knowledge exchange and cooperation on information and communication activities as for aspects tied to European integration and, particularly, regarding social inclusion of people with disabilities, so as to achieve a truly equal Europe.

Following recommendations of the Parliament I am honoured to chair, the European Commission has adopted an ambitious strategy for disability after 2020, which requires rights integration of all people with disabilities in every policy and sector. This will allow equal access to healthcare, work, public transport and will include measures to avoid that people with disabilities are severely afflicted by health crises.

We must work together for a Europe that operates for all, where rights are protected and discrimination will always be intolerable.

Let me particularly thank the “Amici di Luca” Onlus Association (ITALIA). The dedication and perseverance thanks to which your organisation assists people having suffered from mental injuries or woken up from coma towards rehabilitation and reintegration within society are admirable.

There are no simple answers, nor guarantees. However, the European Parliament is ready to cooperate with the other institutions and the Member States to take at face value the incoming challenges.

When you consulted it, the Parliament was ready and able to act – and to do it quickly. We will be there and available for all time needed.

Europe always exits crises stronger. The pandemic has engendered lot of sufferings, but this has taught us precious lessons for the future and we will put them into practice as soon as possible. This Parliament supports the European Union of health and will contribute to

implement it.

If there has ever been a moment for “more Europe”, it is here and now.

Despite multiple challenges and harsh realities, I am optimistic. I am hopeful. I am confident about the chances of our time and, when I look at young people of all Europe, I know that the future is bright.

I am convinced that, thanks to Europe, the world waiting for us will be better than the one we leave behind.

Thank you