

Social Firms Europe CEFEC

"a network for your social economy vision"

To,

Senate of Romania

Ms. Anca Dragu, President

Dear Ms. President

Our network, Social Firms Europe CEFEC, closely monitors the way people with disabilities live in Romania and works together with over 60 members from 23 European countries, having, at the same time, representatives in the European Disability Forum's Board (<https://www.edf-feph.org>) and the Mental Health Europe network.

We have noticed that the public debate regarding the appointing process of a new president of the Monitoring Committee on of the mechanisms related to the rights of persons with disabilities in Romania, as well as on the situation of persons living in residential institutions, is of great concern for us, as we received numerous calls from the non-governmental organisations and our members from Romania and others that we are connected with.

It seems the previous leadership of the Committee did not succeed in visualising civil society as a partner, and was in difficulty to provide appropriate monitoring for the respect of the rights of people with disabilities in institutions, which resulted in his resignation.

We are concerned that this inefficiency and distrust were caused by some existing political connections. Based on our observations, we have come to the conclusion that appointing someone to this position, who is not politically independent, does not represent a good practice.

We are aware that it is highly important to realise that monitoring the compliance of the UN's Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is essential to guarantee their rights and that best results come from a climate of trust, by working together with the civil society.

The Committee must have the necessary independence, in order to achieve its mission.

We are looking forward to the Senate of Romania taking the best possible decision, for the proper running of this body, which is of crucial importance for the democracy and respect of Human Rights in Romania and we wish to entrust you with our full support.

Sincerely,

Felicitas Kresimon, SFE CEFEC President

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