



## Significant improvements brought by Parliament to proposed European Disability Card schemes

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Today the European Parliament's Employment and Social Affairs Committee (EMPL), leading on this file, adopted its position on the European Commission proposed Directive establishing the European Disability Card and the European Parking Card for persons with disabilities. This opens the way for negotiations with the EU Council, which adopted its own position in late November last year.

“We welcome the significant improvements brought to the text by the Parliament, which reflect the demands of organisations representing people with disabilities and lay the foundations for an ambitious new legislation”, said European Blind Union President Wolfgang Angermann. “We thank the lead negotiator, MEP Lucia Ďuriš Nicholsonová, and all the Members of the European Parliament who have heard the demands of persons with disabilities and helped achieve this positive milestone”, he added.

Very important to us is the broadening of the scope of the European Disability Card, to grant temporary access to allowances, support and social security when moving for work and study, and to support when taking part in EU Mobility Programmes—although we would have preferred this extension to apply to all people with disabilities moving to another EU country for more than a short stay. We also particularly welcome that the Parliament proposes to set up EU-wide instruments to

inform users of the advantages attached to the Disability Card and the Disability Parking Card respectively, country by country.

We now call on the Parliament and Council negotiators to respectively defend and appreciate the progress brought to the text by the EMPL report as they reflect the expectations of persons with disabilities. That the Council's General Approach proposes that Member States may decide to apply the directive for periods longer than short stays, is hopefully a sign that Member States understand the need to deliver on equal treatment in mobility for EU citizens with disabilities.

We urge the EU legislator to adopt the directive before the European elections, as time is of the essence on this file. Noteworthy in this respect is the Parliament's proposal to reduce the time of transposition and implementation of the European Disability Card.

The proposal is one of seven 'flagship initiatives' announced by the European Commission in the EU Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030.

### **About EBU**

EBU is a non-governmental, non-profit making European organisation founded in 1984. It is one of the six regional bodies of the World Blind Union. It protects and promotes the interests of blind and partially sighted people in Europe. It currently operates within a network of national organisations of the visually impaired in 42 European countries.

ENDS

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