



**European Committee
of the Regions**

EUROPEAN ROUND TABLE

Family carers in Europe today: State of play

Thursday 24th October 2024

9.00-12.00 CET

Brussels, Belgium





Family carers in Europe today: state of play

24 October 2024, 9h00-12h00

European Round Table hosted by the European Committee of the Regions
Room JDE51, 99-101 Rue Belliard, 1040 Brussels, Belgium

In the run-up to the 29th October [UN international day of care and support](#), this European round table will foster debate on the realities and support needs of family carers in the European Union today. It will shed light on the role of European frameworks to support families with disabilities and/or in need of care through robust community-based intervention models at the local and regional levels.

During this round table, the COFACE Disability platform for the rights of persons with disabilities and their families (founded in 1998) will outline the needs of family carers today based on the European Charter for Family Carers. This Charter was created in 2005 by COFACE Disability (and reviewed in 2024) in accordance with the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and other significant international conventions and documents developed under the auspices of the United Nations, the Council of Europe, the European Union, and the European Disability Forum, concerning the life, dignity, rights, and full citizenship of persons with disabilities and their families.

The Charter highlights the needs of family carers in their diversity, regardless of the cause of the individual's support need (disability, age, illness, accident). It is designed as a tool for national decision makers, EU institutions, care services providers, organisations representing persons in need of care and their families within the European Union, as well as local and regional authorities responsible for service provision and community-based support.

This round table will bring together members of COFACE Disability and key Brussels-based EU stakeholders from the European institutions, including officials from the European Commission and the European Committee of the Regions, as well as major EU civil society organisations.

Working languages: English and French

Register [here](#).

PROGRAMME

Thursday 24 October 2024

Room: JDE51

Moderator: Elizabeth Gosme, Director, COFACE Families Europe

9.00-9.30	Registrations and coffee
9.30-9.40	Welcoming words Antonia Torrens , President, COFACE Families Europe
9.40-10.20	Key concerns and recommendations of family carers Sylvie Hirtz , Co-chair of the COFACE Disability Platform. Sebastian Gonzalez , Policy and Advocacy Officer, COFACE Families Europe Q&A
10.20-11.30	Reactions and debate Dovilė Juodkaitė , Member of the EESC and co-creator of the EESC opinion on Caregivers. Haydn Hammersley , Social Policy Coordinator, European Disability Forum. Mathilde Prilleux , Programme Assistant, European Social Fund + Community of Practice on Social inclusion Katarina Ivanković Knežević , Director for social rights and Inclusion, DG EMPL, European Commission. (video message) Q&A
11:30-12:00	Concluding remarks and recommendations for next steps
12:00-13.00	Buffet lunch

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