

Beat: Politics

## **PRESIDENT MACRON PROMISED €3,5 Bn FOR THE DISABLED KIDS TO SCHOLARIZED**

### **HE ADMITTED DISABILITY INCLUSION IS WEAK**

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**USPA NEWS** - President Emmanuel Macron, chaired the 6th National Disability Conference at the Elysée on April 26, 2023 at 2 p.m., in front of a hundred representatives of civil society, the disability community and the presence of twenty six (26) ministers from forty two (42) from the government of PM Elisabeth Borne. This Conference occurs each three years. The Head of State, after making a mediocre and worrying observation, concerning disability, "we are not up to the ideal of equality that we have engraved on the pediment of the Republic", launched Emmanuel Macron at the start of his speech, while taking into account the very severe report of the Council of Europe published on April 17, 2023. " And this situation was noted by the European Committee of Social Rights in its decision of December 16, 2022 which was made public 10 days ago. And this committee agreed with the collective complaint that French associations had filed in May 2018, noting that in France, people with disabilities encountered severe shortcomings in the effectiveness of their rights, their participation in social life, their right to guidance, education, vocational training, but also health, social, legal and economic ...

### **THE ACQUIRED OR BORN DISABILITY MUST IN NO CASE REDUCE THE PERSON TO A SUB-CITIZEN BECAUSE OF THEIR IMPAIRMENT**

President Macron seems to have taken stock of the shortcomings in France vs. the inclusion of disabled people and urges "a change of paradigm, commensurate with societal challenges". This would imply a total change in the current method of members of the government and a genuinely empathetic and realistic approach, through concrete actions, at the service of the inclusion of disabled people. One of the advisers to the French President, having responded to the press on the choice and criteria of the associations and disabled people invited to this essential meeting of the CNH at the Elysee Palace, this April 26, 2023, replied "We always invite the same ", implying clientelism! This must change in the first place, how one can claim changing the method and paradigm, if the favorite ones are always the guests for a so called debate and exchange over disability... handicapped people in France, because even the Palais de l'Elysee has installed a carpet and specially adapted ramps to accommodate the wheelchairs deployed for the occasion.

Many of disabled non profit Associations and active leaders who make impact in the french society, and sometimes overseas, have not been invited, this year, at Elysee Palace. The motto could even be ironically said "Too good to be invited"

### **PRESIDENT MACRON ADMITS FAILURE OF INACTION OF DISABILITY MINISTERS IN LINE WITH U.N & EUORPEAN COUNCIL SEVERES VIS A VIS FRANCE**

"We were also all marked by the remarks of the UN in September 2021, after the hearing of France on the application of the International Convention on the Rights of Persons disabilities. This observation obliges us and several of the points thus raised give rise to initial responses, but will also have to mobilize us beyond today's roadmap. » the Head of State, declared with great foresight, faced with the failure of successive disability ministers since 2017, then 2022, his two presidential terms.

President Macron then listed some of the next seventy measures (70), which he would like them to be "immediate application over the next three years" including the "wheelchair fully covered by the Social Security of 2024", the increase up to €500/month in salary for school auxiliaries (accompanying students with disabilities at the School) and the possibility for these carers to work on a full-time contract.

The head of State, also promised the creation of new medico-social structures for children "This is why the commitment made here is to deploy for children and adults in this five-year period, 50,000 new medico-social solutions. It is an effort that has never been done in such a period" he said.

Among the financial aid, President Macron has promised €1.5 billion to improve the physical and digital accessibility of people with disabilities and reduced mobility. This does not take transport into account.

President Macron, has nevertheless announced some good new measures, including the end of the rest for the launch of a wheelchair from 2024, for example and the signing of a Charter of Commitment for a fully accessible Society "(page 30) between the State, Associations and Local Authorities (Regions, Departments, Town Halls)

"The Minister will finalize by the summer the action plan" President Macron unveiled, that should be implemented to remove the obstacles and move forward on this very important subject, with several of her colleagues from the Government, implying inter-ministerial and cross-cutting work, that he had already requested since his accession to the Presidency of the Republic, ie in 2017, and was not followed up by the ministers in office.

#### MINISTERS FOR DISABILITY FOR DISABILITY ARE MORE FOCUSED ON THEIR POLITICAL CAREERS THAN THE GENUINE CAUSE OF DISABILITY

The Minister Delegate for Disability, Genevieve Darrieussecq, introduced her keynote, with an admission of failure "After the UN and the Council of European Union, we have a long way to go, and we need a roadmap ». She says, as she underlined, her desire to continue in the current government (Yet, the media and the political opposition, evoke very often an upcoming government reshuffle, following the succession of strikes demonstrations since January 19, against the pension reform).

One will guess between the lines, over the Minister for Disability, who seems more focused on her continuation as a Minister than to dedicate her time, energy and work to the bad situation of disability in France " Thank you all tomorrow, we are going to do it effectively on a multi-annual basis and I want to fully involve all the actors in these applications, I call on all French people to work with us". Thus, the Minister for Disability, according to her own words, is expecting from the French people to deliver her a roadmap while it is people with disabilities whose case is undermined by such expectation from a member of the government confessing their lack of method and ideas, to fix the problems and find concrete solutions in the sake of Inclusion/ Disability.

She is then applauded as she joins the first row, proud of her statement, and chewing her gum alongside Francois Xavier Combes, Minister of Autonomy Solidarity and Handicap, likely proud and content as well.

The latter, atop his pedestal title of minister, did not dare responding to a disabled person in a wheelchair who comes to greet him, in this Fete des Fetes (Party Room) of the Elysee Palace, on the occasions of the CNH ....(National Conference of Disability, which happens every three years). He disdains this greetings and neglect her, as remaining to play with his smartphone. These inappropriate behaviors, confirm the condescension, towards the handicapped people whose well-being are supposed to be defended and even provided by their ministers, and not to be despised and being declined a greeting....Just a « Hello, How are you » would do.....for a gesture of courtesy, especially towards a vulnerable person.

"It's about 'changing the daily life of the people' concerned, to allow them to go to school, work, move around," said President Macron, who then recalled certain actions prior to the current mandate of the Minister Delegate for Disability Geneviève Darrieussecq (whose report is unknown, and unavailable, from his ministry). The latter, after a year in office, has done so little or no real action to improve the daily lives of the 12 million and 9 million carers in France, to the point that the majority of French people are even unaware that she is the Disabled Minister!

She also recalled the mediocre results of France vis a vis the inclusion of disabled people, referring to the very severe reports of the United Nations and the Council of Europe, concerning France and its too medical approach. -social and non-citizenship of people with disabilities "After the UN and Council of EU, we have a long way to go". This Declaration agrees with a total lack of empathy, by this admission of her failure, and as if all was well, while she has been the Minister dedicated to Disability for a year already, without the daily life of this minority being improved!

The General Secretary of CNCPH, Jeremy Bovoy, (National Council for Disability under the aegis of French Government) insisted on the sexual life of people with disabilities.

#### PRESIDENT MACRON PLEDGES €1.5Bn TO BETTER THE ACCESSIBILITY FOR THE RMP DISABLED IN FRANCE

The President of the Republic Macron, recalled France's delay in terms of physical and digital accessibility for disabled people "This

project is far from being a discovery, we have been making commitments for 20 years, it is the one that prevents so many times your lives, access to housing, sometimes to employment and basically to the most fundamental rights", he conceded, while promising financial aid from the State to allow access to ERP (Establishment receiving the Public) "I am not in favor of the idea of ??immediately imposing sanctions". The state will therefore devote 1.5 billion euros to improving accessibility to public places for people with disabilities and entrusting the prefects with a key role in supporting compliance with a territorial accessibility fund, taking into account the "small ERP whose accessibility changes very concretely the daily life of people". "It's a heavy budget line", he noted, adding that this commitment would be subject to regular monitoring, with an initial assessment from 2024, and could then give rise to "sanctions" for the public places improving their access too slowly.

Nevertheless, it is not only a question of injecting large sums of money, France lacks a real methodology which would consist in applying the law of February 11, 2005, which is very clear and quite complete in all respects and in particularly the accessibility of ERPs (Establishment receiving the Public). It is also up to the prefects who should be enforcing the law, but are either too busy managing other issues and/or do not find the subject of disability accessibility sexy enough in their eyes, so that they ' seize it. As a result, the majority of shops, cafes, restaurants, including pharmacies, medical offices, dentists, notaries, lawyers, etc., without counting places of culture (theaters, cinemas, etc.), leisure, holidays are always inaccessible. disabled people in wheelchairs, who are de facto excluded. With the arrival of the Olympic and Paralympic Games, Paris 2024, this problem will reappear on the surface.

#### FRANCE THE LAND OF ENLIGHTENMENT AND HUMAN RIGHTS DECLARATION IS NON EXEMPLARY AMID DISABILITY/INCLUSION

Among the inspiring topics for the real inclusion of disabled people in France, such as access to culture, leisure, holidays, sport (outside Paris 2024), home helpers for disabled adults, adapted transport , which are unfortunately a real obstacle and unfair by the scarcity of these sectors and the high additional costs, linked to the handicap. These subjects have not been discussed during this conference which takes place every three years in France and at the Presidency of the Republic Elysee Palace. The other thorny subject which was not addressed is that of the visibility of people with disabilities in France, because in the fields of TV and cinema, they are only 0.8% to appear in films or television programs. ...This is far from the quota imposed by the law of February 11, 2005, which requires 6% of disabled people in companies with at least 20 employees. The majority of ministries, public institutions and even political parties, themselves do not apply this quota, and do not encourage by their non-exemplary...

This bad news is all the more dissonant in France, country of light and globally symbolic of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.../

#### **Article online:**

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