

Our President. Lidia Best, spoke during the V Disability Parliament. Here is the text of her intervention. [#LeaveNoOneBehind](#)

Thank you for allowing me to speak. I am the President of the European Federation of Hard of Hearing and together with colleagues at EURO CIU ,I would like to mention basic rights to hearing accessibility.

Hearing access is about allowing people who are deafened or hard of hearing ,and those who use hearing aids and cochlear implants to understand the spoken word and other audible information clearly. Covid 19 was especially testing time for those who are deaf or hard of hearing, unable to follow information or instructions.

Hearing access is crucial for ensuring equality, diversity, and inclusion at all levels of the society especially in crisis situation. It should be considered and must be an essential mean for accessibility in all areas of life within the European Union to create a more accessible and stronger union where people with disability can fully participate.

HEARING ACCESS include: hearing loops, human generated captioning, subtitling , assistive devices.

The EU Institutions, and all public institutions have a role with leading by example, and we look forward to a day, when no one with hearing loss will feel excluded from active participation. As with Covid 19, unable to follow due to masks requirement. And as example, yesterday, our members participated in the visits to Parliament and they were unable to follow discussions due to lack of hearing loops provision.

The representative organisations , our members are experts in their inclusion and they must be directly involved in planning accessibility at any level if we want to achieve fully inclusive resilience implementation within EU.

As numbers of persons with hearing loss increase, due to conflicts and exposure to noise, we must , Leave No One Behind.