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**From:****Sent:** Tuesday, September 22, 2020 12:12 PM**To:** [CAB-SCHMIT-ARCHIVES@ec.europa.eu](mailto:CAB-SCHMIT-ARCHIVES@ec.europa.eu)**Subject:** Declaration by the National Committee for the Coordination of De-institutionalization**Importance:** High

Dear Mr Commissioner!

I herewith attach the "Declaration by the National Committee for the Coordination of De-institutionalization" for your information. The National Committee for the Coordination of De-institutionalization (hereafter referred to as IFKOTT) is a body established by act with 11 members; 6 of the members are representatives of civil organizations and 5 members are government delegates. The attached declaration is the product and the result of a proposed agenda by the civil representation. The standing committee supports the attached declaration with 10 "yes", 1 "no" and 0 "abstention".

Kind Regards,  
Pal Szekeres  
President of IFKKOT

**Declaration  
by the  
National Committee for the Coordination of De-institutionalisation**

Adopted by the Standing Committee 5/2020 - September 03, 2020.

Members of the National Committee for the Coordination of De-institutionalisation (hereafter referred to as "IFKKOT") understands that it is imperative to continue the transformation of large capacity nursing and care institutions and the development of a community-based care system, rested on the principle that the fundamental freedoms and inherent dignity of all persons with disabilities are promoted.

As of January 1, 2013 supported housing was introduced by law in Hungary in accordance with the principles of the de-institutionalisation strategy. The consistent aim of supported housing has been to enable the transition process towards independent living for persons with disabilities, to provide welfare services in community-based setting and to implement alternative special services based on complex need assessments.

The Standing Committee reached consensus on the matter that the Hungarian legislation (and regulations) on supported housing, also the chain of services organized for the facilitation of the transformation process predominantly comply with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

In consideration of the unfavourable institutional heritage of Hungary deinstitutionalization is the indispensable mechanism towards a person-centred approach to social policy making. To expect immediate compliance with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities including its Article 19 could cause unwanted tensions in the social sector, in worst case scenario, resulting in delay for years, maybe for decades.

**At the present stage of the process the withdrawal of funds would cause more difficulties than the facilitation of further amendments and advancements. It would cause a complete shutdown and a standstill, – bringing about disadvantageous side effects, mostly affecting the persons with disabilities whose best interest should remain of utmost importance.**

The Ministry of Human Capacities and the largest Hungarian advocacy organizations representing the interest of persons with disabilities entered into a cooperation agreement resulting in the renewal of the Standing Committee of IFKKOT with majority of civil organizations. The Guiding Principles of the Standing Committee:

- Commitment to continue the transformation of large capacity nursing and care institutions and the development of a community-based care system based on complex need assessments, and promotion of the rights and inherent dignity of all persons with disabilities.
- Commitment to support the advancement of the de-institutionalization process with consideration of prior achievements, best practices, experience and the feed-back of the

involved; with the continuance of rigorous monitoring and well- established planning process that is in compliance with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

- Commitment to support the families of persons with disabilities and to promote the importance of family environment by providing relevant social welfare services, adequate employment and housing solutions which further improve the quality of life of persons with disabilities and their families
- Commitment to emphasise the importance to sufficiently fulfil the special needs of persons with disabilities.
- Commitment to a de-institutionalisation process that emphasises and increases the value of a supportive family by providing adequate community-based services.
- Commitment to a fruitful dialogue that ensures the compliance with the UN Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (as completely as possible).
- Commitment to continue to support the advancement of the de-institutionalisation process in the present 2014-2020 Programming Period of the European Union, also the publication of the call for tender of the EFOP 2.2.5 as soon as possible.

This Joint Declaration would be undersigned by the President of IFKKOT with the Standing Committee's common authorization.

Budapest, 2020.09.21

**President of IFKKOT**