

Mr. Ioannis Vardakastanis

Mr. Vardakastanis is since 1999 President of the European Disability Forum (EDF), the umbrella organization of the European Disability movement.

EDF consists of National Disability Federations from the 27 EU Member States, plus Norway and Iceland. It represents a very broad range of European Organizations of Disabled People in accordance with the diversity of the disability movement.

EDF is the voice of the European Disability movement and acts for the promotion of the disabled people's human rights within the European Union.

Mr Vardakastanis is also the President of National Confederation of Disabled People of Greece since 1993. He represents the European Disability Forum before the UN and at the International Disability Alliance and also participated in the negotiations on the UN CRPD from the beginning till the end.

Mr Vardakastanis has been an active disability rights campaigner throughout his working life and has held a number of key positions: member of the Board of the European Blind Union, member of the Executive Committee of the World Blind Union, Vice President of the Social Platform (from 1999 - 2003), member of the Management Committee (from 1999 - 2007) of the Social Platform, member of the National Committee for the Athens 2004 Olympic and Paralympic Games to name a few.