



**Petition No 0822/2022 by Maria Pindado Galan (Spanish), on behalf of Confederación Autismo España, asking for the European Disability Statute to contemplate the rights of people with autism**

The petitioners are from a nationwide confederation in Spain representing social action entities whose organisers are relatives of people with autism spectrum disorders (ASD). They are calling for the protection offered by the future European Disability Card, which is to be recognised in all Member States, to extend to people with ASD, removing the difficulties they face in proving their status in all Member States. They argue that, in order to achieve this, it will be necessary to: promote a legal ‘person with disabilities’ status at European level that allows mutual recognition and accreditation in all Member States, taking into account the specific nature of ASD; recognise not only disability certificates but also official diagnoses of any condition requiring adjustment/support in areas such as education or employment, as is the case for people with ASD; in line with the European strategy for the rights of persons with disabilities 2021-2030, ensure there is organised, detailed and open data enabling authorities to have systematised, up-to-date and verified information on people with ASD; ensure there is a uniform certification system throughout the EU that leads to an equivalent level of enjoyment of rights; simplify the procedure for obtaining the certificate in question. The petitioners state that the strategy for the rights of persons with disabilities 2021-2030, presented by the European Commission in March 2021, constitutes a major step forward compared with the previous strategy in terms of achieving rights and promoting public policies on disability. They consider, however, that no real progress will be made unless rights in the different EU countries are harmonised, and unless there is genuine freedom of movement for persons with disabilities across EU borders. Persons with disabilities must know that their rights will be respected and that they will receive the requisite support. This is particularly relevant for people with autism, since they already face countless violations of and obstacles to the recognition of their disability