

Beat: Politics

## **PM.E. BORNE SIGNS THE STATE&TRANSPORT ACCESSIBILITY CHARTER WITH SNCF, ADP, RATP**

**ALONGSIDE MINISTERS CEOs & V.PECRESSE**

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**USPA NEWS** - PM Elisabeth Borne, visited Saint Denis today at the SNCF Campus as part of the summer universities of the National Consultative Council for Disabled People (CNCPH), to sign an important charter on accessibility for disabled people.

She was accompanied by half a dozen ministers as well as CEOs (SNCF, RATP, ADP) as well as Valerie Pecresse President of the Ile de France region, to first take a short tour of the SNCF innovation laboratory where she was then able to attend a demonstration of the use by disabled users of the new high-tech equipment with better accessibility, for Parisian metros.

The metro payment gates are equipped with a voice recognition system and with Braille for disabled people (hearing and visually impaired) and automatic doors for disabled people with reduced mobility (in sliding wheelchairs). Other gloves are dedicated to passengers with children's trolleys or rolling suitcases. The PM, Elisabeth Borne then proceeded to the signing of the action plan with Mr. Jean Castex, Chairman and CEO of the RATP group, Mr. Jean-Pierre Farandou, Chairman and CEO of the SNCF group and Mr. Augustin de Romanet, Chairman -general director of the ADP group (Aéroports de Paris)

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PR MACRON UNVEILED 1.5 Bn € FOR ACCESSIBILITY**

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The New CEO of RATP, the French metro company in Paris, Jean Castex is the former PM, knowing that Mrs Elisabeth Borne, was CEO of RATP, before becoming minister, then PM, in 2022.

It is therefore an area of public transport that Ms. Borne knows well. However, with less than a year before the Olympic and Paralympic Games of Paris 2024, while work continues to prepare these future Olympiads of 2024, exceptionally grouping the Olympic and Paralympic Games, everyone is wondering about the reception conditions para-athletes and people with reduced mobility (adapted accommodation and adapted transcripts, as well as mobility accessibility in the streets of Paris), because 350,000 people in wheelchairs are expected at this global event, facing obstacles very numerous in Paris and its outskirts in terms of accessibility!

The President of the Republic, Emmanuel Macron, announced the State allocation of 1.5 billion euros over five years to make public places accessible, during the National Disability Conference on April 26, 2023. Among the €1.5Bn, 500 million will co-finance community projects, 210 million euros will be devoted to universities and state buildings which will be made accessible by 2027, 430 million euros will be used to accelerate the accessibility of transport and 60 million euros will aim to "make up for the deficit in accessibility of public procedures and websites". Three hundred million will be dedicated to small businesses to encourage them to develop the entrance to their businesses, by installing accessibility ramps.

**50% of the 1.8 M ERP PLACES (ESTABLISHMENT RECEIVING THE PUBLIC) SMALL SHOPS ARE INACCESSIBLE TO DISABLED PEOPLE IN WHEELCHAIRS**

Three hundred million small businesses will be dedicated to small businesses to encourage them to develop the entrance to their businesses, by installing accessibility ramps. This involves 1.8 million small private everyday establishments in France. , known as

ERPs (Establishments receiving the Public) of the 5th category: shops, hotels, restaurants, medical offices... However in 2023, barely 50% of them have complied with the standards, to allow accessibility within the framework of AdAP Scheduled accessibility agendas launch in 2019).

France is very late at this level and the absence of sanctions, although the law requires these ERPs to comply with standards, does not facilitate the process of upgrading. Millions of disabled people and even seniors with reduced mobility find themselves excluded from our places, places of leisure, (theaters, cinemas) and even retreats, and even certain pharmacies and medical law offices are still inaccessible for people in wheelchairs. It is no longer even a question of no inclusion but of a real exclusion of a large part of the 3.5 million disabled people with reduced mobility. In France, disabled people represent 17% of the population, 14 million people and 80% of whom have an invisible disability!

Former Minister of Disability, Sophie Cluzel, whose long mandate has only very had to advance as a launcher of disabled people, (very mediocre or even non-existent record) had launched (by copying the song of a disabled person who had suggested creating accessibility brigades)

She then launched with great media fanfare the launch of an accessibility ambassador system. The objective is to recruit 200 before the end of 2023, then 400 more in 2024 and 400 in 2025. That is 1,000 young people in civic service in total. In the end, nothing had been done, or even achieved any results! In a fake announcement from the former minister of disability more concerned with his own notoriety than real pragmatic actions essential to improving the daily life of millions of disabled people in France.

The only "revolution" of this minister was to reduce the file times of the MDPH (House for Disabled Persons) which grants CMI cards (Carte de Mobilité Inclusion) which does not bring its beneficiary any advantage or reduction, nor has priority ever been applied, not even in queues in public establishments, such as town halls, etc., and no adjustment or adaptation in view of the impairment of the beneficiary with a disability, 80%.

PM E. BORNE SIGNS THE STATE-TRANSPORT CHARTER ON DISABILITY ACCESSIBILITY, WITH ADP This is how PM Elisabeth Borne then signed with Mr. Jean Castex, Chairman and CEO of the RATP group, Mr. Jean-Pierre Farandou, Chairman and CEO of the SNCF group and Mr. Augustin de Romanet, Chairman- general director of the ADP group, an action plan to accelerate accessibility in transport.

Finally, the Prime Minister will hold the CIH meeting in front of representatives of disability associations. This meeting is a continuation of the commitments made by the President of the Republic during the National Disability Conference (CNH) on April 26. The PM was accompanied during her visit to the Interministerial Disability Committee by her ministers:

- Aurore Berge, Minister of Solidarity and Families
- Amélie Oudea-Castera, Minister of Sports and the Olympic and Paralympic Games
- Clément Beaune, Minister Delegate for Transport
- Agnès Firmin Le Bodo, Minister Delegate in charge of Territorial Organization and Health Professions
- Fadila Khattabi, Minister Delegate for Persons with Disabilities

PM Elisabeth Borne first thanked "Thank you Mr. Farandou (CEO of SNCF) for welcoming us to the CNCPH state universities

Then she recalled the announcements of funds allocated to accessibility for people with disabilities at the end of Paris 2024.

"We will be able to take steps by mobilizing collectively to improve disability situations with a more inclusive approach and PARIS 2024 must be an accelerator for accessibility in particular, this SNCF, RATP, ADP, we will put in place an action plan for the audio, visual and audio accessibility of the metro. » She confirms that "the President of the Republic has announced that he is sorry for the fund

for accessible for the quality of life of disabled people with reduced mobility with an allocation of €M 300 over 5 years for living spaces, including businesses, which will be operational from next November, i.e.

and €M100 with arrows on the trottets at the Olympic and Paralympic Games Paris 2024 and the disabled and the teams we are behind e'qui de France. The PM also insisted on the involvement of civil society mobilized for the preparation of these Olympic Games, including disabled volunteers in a spirit of inclusion "More than 3,000 disabled volunteers and spectators are reviewed, as well as ticketing popular because the State will make 15,000 tickets available to disabled people and their caregivers... she proudly announces. spider more inclusive" has ai si declared in very short introductory remarks. She handed the floor to Clement Beaune, Minister of Transport.

## CLEMENT BEAUNE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT PROMISES TO IMPROVE THE MEDIOCRE SERVICE IN THE AIRPORT DEDICATED TO THE DISABLED, ENSURING ASSISTANCE FROM GATE TO GATE OF THEIR AIRCRAFT TO CATCH

Clement, Beaune, Minister of Transport, declared following this announcement, PM Elisabeth Borne

“Regarding the measures to ensure that fraudsters no longer come into contact with disabled people using the machines which are small, essential adjustments with long-term changes. We are also going to set up sound mobility patrollers and thank you to the Ile de France region and high technology and Mr Jean Castex who has done an exemplary job at this level” he congratulated the CEO of RATP and Valerie Pecresse President of the Ile de France region.

Minister Clement Beaune, continues "our objectives are that mobility accessibility by 2027, and the Olympic Games could change things but there is also collective behavior and we must improve the facilitation of our actions towards disabled people and that we carry

their assistance to the door of the plane and that they can access their plane in a wheelchair" Recalling sad episodes of disabled people mistreated by the assistance services at ADP, and where often their wheelchairs were non-delivery of damaged books and/or often airlines refuse to deliver them from gate to gate, treating their wheelchair like common baggage...But wheelchairs need to be handled with delicate barrels, they are in no case suitcases but a Vital tool for the person's mobile that does not work. Minister Beaune concludes, being reassuring towards disabled people: "We are going to add accessible taxis in an emblematic way and we have made a collective commitment to develop things and for things to be improved with a legacy of games and to activate the levers. necessary to succeed in our Olympic games.

There is work to be done, count on the commitment of all of us. » he concluded.../

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