



2015/2258(INI)

26.5.2016

OPINION

of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

for the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

on implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities with special regard to the concluding observations of the UN CRPD Committee
(2015/2258(INI))

Rapporteur: Richard Howitt

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Foreign Affairs calls on the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Welcomes new Objective 12 in the Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy 2015-2019; calls on the Commission to ensure that the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is systematically raised in human rights dialogues with third countries; calls on the EU Special Representative for Human Rights to lead and monitor progress in this field, with special regard to standardisation efforts in terms of accessibility;
2. Calls strongly for Section 8 of the European Disability Strategy referring to external action to be matched by the inclusion of genuine and concrete commitments which will improve the lives of people with disabilities in the strategy's new 'list of actions' for 2016-2020, such commitments having been absent in the 2010-2015 list;
3. Supports the effective inclusion of persons with disabilities in society, namely in local communities, and the funding of services for persons living independently through programmes under the external action financing instruments; calls for more streamlined use of the EU Structural Funds; calls for the mid-term evaluation of the external financing instruments in order to assess how effectively they have contributed to the inclusion of persons with disabilities in their societies, barriers have been dismantled, and accessibility has been promoted; demands, furthermore, that any expenditure in EU programmes that support institutionalisation avoid the segregation of persons with disabilities; calls for the strengthening and monitoring of expenditure in consultation with disability organisations;
4. Supports the CRPD expert recommendations for the EU to be more accessible and inclusive in order to achieve a human-rights-based approach to disability in situations of risk and emergency, including through implementation of the Sendai Framework; strongly urges the mainstreaming in EU migration and refugee policies of the human rights of persons with disabilities, who suffer double discrimination; stresses that these measures should provide an appropriate response to the specific needs of persons with disabilities and take into account the requirement for needs-based reasonable accommodation measures; encourages further mainstreaming of the needs of persons with disabilities in the humanitarian response provided by the Member States and the European Union;
5. Reiterates the importance of the Council conclusions on the integration of disability-inclusive disaster management across the EU Civil Protection Mechanism and throughout the Member States; calls for raising awareness among, and providing information to, persons with disabilities and emergency and civil protection services on disaster-risk reduction initiatives and for psychological support to be provided to persons with disabilities in the recovery phase of the disasters;
6. Welcomes the CRPD Committee's recommendations for the EU to develop a system of human-rights-based indicators; stresses that this must clearly measure the access of

persons with disabilities to EU external programmes and the impact of EU funds on the human rights of persons with disabilities, in line with Articles 31 and 32 of the CRPD; calls for an explicit reference to the CRPD in all impact assessment guidelines; calls for the EU to develop a comprehensive data collection system;

7. Recommends that EU delegations and agencies display a sufficient understanding of EU disability strategies and work in an inclusive and accessible way; suggests the creation of a 'focal point' for CRPD in the European External Action Service; calls for the urgent introduction of a disability perspective in all training courses on human rights provided in the framework of the CSDP missions;
8. Strongly regrets the lack of sufficient formal consultation by the EU of organisations representing persons with disabilities in its preparations for the review process by the UN CRPD Committee in 2015 and in drafting its progress report; calls for disability organisations to contribute actively to CRPD meetings as an independent party including by taking part in official EU delegations for future reviews;
9. Recalls that women and girls with disabilities experience double discrimination and are often at greater risk of suffering violence, abuse, maltreatment or exploitation; strongly supports the recommendation of mainstreaming a gender perspective in all EU disability strategies, including in the EU's external policies and action.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Date adopted	24.5.2016
Result of final vote	+: 47 -: 1 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Lars Adaktusson, Michèle Alliot-Marie, Petras Auštrevičius, Amjad Bashir, Goffredo Maria Bettini, Elmar Brok, Klaus Buchner, James Carver, Lorenzo Cesa, Javier Couso Permuy, Georgios Epitideios, Knut Fleckenstein, Eugen Freund, Michael Gahler, Iveta Grigule, Janusz Korwin-Mikke, Eduard Kukan, Ilhan Kyuchyuk, Ryszard Antoni Legutko, Barbara Lochbihler, Sabine Lösing, Andrejs Mamikins, Ramona Nicole Mănescu, David McAllister, Tamás Meszerics, Francisco José Millán Mon, Javier Nart, Pier Antonio Panzeri, Demetris Papadakis, Ioan Mircea Pașcu, Vincent Peillon, Alojz Peterle, Tonino Picula, Andrej Plenković, Cristian Dan Preda, Jozo Radoš, Jaromír Štětina, Charles Tannock, Geoffrey Van Orden, Boris Zala
Substitutes present for the final vote	Luis de Grandes Pascual, Andrzej Grzyb, Marek Jurek, Tokia Saïfi, Bodil Valero, Janusz Zemke
Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote	Therese Comodini Cachia, Judith Sargentini, Ricardo Serrão Santos, Jarosław Wałęsa, Renate Weber