



2015/2258(INI)

18.2.2016

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Legal Affairs

for the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

on the 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: Heidi Hautala

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Legal 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. Recognises the relevance of an individual complaints mechanism for the protection of rights encompassed in the Convention; calls, in this connection, on the Council to ratify the Optional Protocol without delay;
2. Calls on the Commission to make a comprehensive review of EU legislation in order to ensure that it fully complies with the CRPD;
3. Is concerned about the difficulties that persons with disabilities still face in accessing justice; calls on the Member States to take action in order to provide full procedural accommodation for such persons; considers that the Commission should consider including specific training programmes on the CRPD in the 2014-2020 EU Justice Programme; suggests that EU courts should apply their internal rules and instructions in a way that facilitates access to justice for persons with disabilities;
4. Reiterates the importance of exceptions and limitations to copyright and related rights being available to persons with disabilities; notes the conclusion of the Marrakesh Treaty, and reiterates its conviction that the EU is competent to conclude this treaty without ratification being conditional upon revision of the EU legal framework;
5. Emphasises that any legislative change in the field of copyright and related rights should guarantee people with disabilities access to works and services protected by those rights in any format; calls on the Commission to submit legislative proposals on exceptions and limitations to copyright and related rights in order to ensure that people with different disabilities have access to works and services protected by those rights;
6. Regrets that the Council did not accept the inclusion of documents relating to disability within the scope of the Regulation on promoting the free movement of citizens and businesses by simplifying the acceptance of certain public documents in the EU;
7. Recognises the multiple ways in which the Hague Convention on the International Protection of Adults can functionally assist in implementing and supporting the international obligations of the parties to the CRPD; regrets, in this connection, the Commission's failure to follow up Parliament's resolution of 18 December 2008 with recommendations to the Commission on cross-border implications of the legal protection of adults.