



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

2013/2065(INI)

1.7.2013

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

for the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

on women with disabilities
(2013/2065(INI))

Rapporteur: **Ádám Kósa**

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Employment and Social Affairs calls on the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

1. Recalls that, as the population ages, the proportion of elderly people with a disability is increasing, and that those concerned are more likely to be women owing to their longer life expectancy; stresses that women with disabilities as a group face greater exclusion and have less opportunities in the labour market than men with disabilities;
2. Calls on the Union and the Member States to facilitate the participation of all citizens in the democratic process in terms of both the right to vote and the right to stand as a candidate;
3. Notes that the terminology used to describe physical impairments and disabilities is different and that the focus should be on disabilities instead of impairments in medical terms, in accordance with the approach chosen in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and followed by the European Court of Justice¹; stresses that employers should not examine the disabilities of employees or applicants which are irrelevant to a given job, but only their skills and abilities;
4. Stresses the importance of fighting stereotypes by not only presenting positive images but also inspiring real examples of women with disabilities, showing how their compensating abilities allow them to enjoy a rewarding working and private life;
5. Highlights that, as regards the notions of barrier-free environment and accessibility, inclusive design, as an innovative approach, covers both architecture and services that can better suit the needs of all people regardless of disability and foster more sustainable and inclusive lifestyles;
6. Calls on the Union to further support mothers with disabilities or disabled children, with special regard to their difficult position in the labour market, by maintaining or setting up services better tailored to their needs.

¹ Judgment of the Court of Justice of 11 July 2006 in Case C-13/05, Chacón Navas v Eurest Colectividades SA ([2006] ECR I-6488)