

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1999



2004

Committee on Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities

**PROVISIONAL
2004/2004(INI)**

15 March 2004

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities

for the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

on Communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the regions - Equal opportunities for people with disabilities: A European Action Plan

(COM(2003)0650 – 2004/2004(INI))

Draftsperson: Uma Aaltonen

PROCEDURE

The Committee on Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities appointed Uma Aaltonen drafts person at its meeting of 18 February 2004.

It considered the draft opinion at its meeting(s) of

At the latter/last meeting it adopted the following suggestions by ... votes to ..., with ... abstention(s)/unanimously.

The following were present for the vote: ... (chair(wo)man/acting chair(wo)man), ... (vice-chair(wo)man), ... (vice-chair(wo)man), Uma Aaltonen (drafts person), ..., ... (for ...), ... (for ... pursuant to Rule 153(2)), ... and

SUGGESTIONS

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

- A. Whereas disabled women are often victims of multiple forms of discrimination;
 1. Regrets that the Commission communication does not include an integrated gender perspective nor a separate chapter on gender specific disability policies;
 2. Calls respectively on the Council, the Commission and the Member States to introduce gender mainstreaming into all disability policies;
 3. Calls on the EU and the Member States to develop statistics on the situation of disabled people, broken down by gender. A study should be undertaken if any legislation in the Member States concerning disabled people discriminates against disabled women and girls;
 4. Calls on the Commission to take account of gender aspects in its forthcoming Green paper on future strategy on non-discrimination and in its forthcoming Disability Specific Directive and in their implementation; stresses in this connection the need to include information on the situation of disabled women in future Commission reports on the situation of disabled people in an enlarged Europe;
 5. Recalls that disabled women have been victims of serious violation of their fundamental rights, including the right of self-determination as they have been denied their sexual and reproductive rights;
 6. Calls on the Member States to guarantee disabled parents an access to personal assistance;
 7. Calls on the Member States to take vigorous measures against all forms of violence against disabled women and girls. Almost 80% of disabled women are victims of violence, and the risk of sexual violence is four times higher for them than for other women. Violence is not only a frequent occurrence in the lives of disabled women, but is on many occasions the very cause of the disability;
 8. Calls on the Commission to urge the Member States to introduce legislation to protect the rights of disabled women in cases of sexual abuse and violence in public and within their home environments;
 9. Calls on the Member States to introduce special measures to facilitate disabled women's access to justice. The personnel involved (solicitors, prosecutors, etc.) should be trained accordingly;
 10. Calls on the Commission to introduce legislation to protect girls and women from the disabling practice of genital mutilation. These practices should be eliminated through educational programmes for women and men and legislative measures in criminal law;

11. Urges the Commission and the Member States to take action in the development co-operation to protect girls and women from genital mutilation, which is to be considered as a crime in accordance with the Platform for Action of the UN Conference on Women.