

PUBLIC HEARING

Protection of the rights of people with disabilities, *from the perspective of petitions received*

15 October 2015 - Room JAN 6Q2 - 9H00-12h30

9h00-9h05: Introductory words by PETI Chair Ms Cecilia Wikström

9h05-9h20: Presentation of the **research study** commissioned by Policy Department C on "The protection role of the Committee on Petitions in the context of the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities" by Professor Mark Priestley, Centre for Disability Studies at the University of Leeds

FIRST PANEL: EU Framework monitoring the UNCRPD Convention

Moderator: MEP Rosa Estaràs Ferragut, Committee on Petitions

9h25-9h35: Astrid Eichstaedt, Seconded National Expert on Disabilities, European Ombudsman

9h35-9h45: Martha Stickings, Research support officer, Equality and Citizens' Rights Department, the European Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA)

9h45-9h55: Catherine Naughton, Director of the European Disability Forum (EDF)

9h55-10h05: Immaculada Placencia, Deputy Head of Unit, Persons with Disabilities Unit, European Commission

10h05-10h15: Damjan Tatic, member of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (video intervention)

10h15-11h00: Debate

Main topics:

- *Cooperation with the other members of the EU Framework monitoring the UNCRPD Convention*
- *Specific role of protection of the rights of people with disabilities under the UNCRPD*
- *Possible responses to the recommendations of the UN Committee following the examination of the EU Report in relation to the protection role*
- *Cooperation with the other members of the EP inter-committee network on disabilities*

SECOND PANEL: PETITIONS AND MEANS OF REDRESS

Moderator: MEP Soledad Cabezón Ruiz, Committee on Petitions

11h05-11h10: Chiara Bonanno, advocate for the recognition of family caregivers in Italy

11h10-11h15: Leonor Lidón-Heras, Comité Español de Representantes de Personas con Discapacidad (CERMI), CERMI Human Rights and CDPD Delegate¹

11h15-11h20: Judith Klein, director of the Mental Health Initiative, Open Society Foundations, author of Petition No 1459/2012²

11h20-11h30: Dr. Diana Indjova, PhD, Chairman of the Managing Board of the Movement of People with Disabilities, Bulgaria

11h30-11h45: *Questions and answers*

11h45-11h55: Dr. Kevin Cutajar, Lawyer, Founding member of the Gozo Federation of Persons with Disabilities

11h55-12h05: Albane Prophette-Pallasco, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Petitions Unit

12h05-12h25: Debate

Main topics:

- *Presentation of a number of concrete petitions*
- *Cooperation with complaint mechanisms established in Member States under the UN CRPD*
- *The state of play of the horizontal anti-discrimination directive*
- *Addressing areas of EU's and Member States' shared competences under the UNCRPD*
- *The individual communications procedure under the Optional Protocol to the UNCRPD*

12h25-12h30: Concluding remarks by PETI Chair Ms Cecilia Wikström

¹ Petition 1274/2013 by Luis Cayo Perez Bueno (Spanish), on behalf of the CERMI committee, on discrimination against disabled passengers by airlines, and Regulation No 1107/2006 (EC).

² Petition 1459/2012 by Judith Klein (Hungarian) on behalf of Open Society Foundations, with the support of 12 associations, concerning the investment of EU funds in residential centres for the disabled in certain Member States of Central and Eastern Europe