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Committee on Culture and Education

2006/2105(INI)

12.9.2006

OPINION

of the Committee on Culture and Education

for the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

on the situation of disabled people in the enlarged European Union: European
Action Plan 2006-2007
(2006/2105(INI))

Draftsman: Nikolaos Sifunakis

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SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Calls on the Commission and the Member States, acting within their respective terms of reference, to encourage the active involvement of the disabled in education, vocational training, e-learning, life-long learning, cultural events, sport, leisure activities, the information society and the mass media;
2. Calls on the Commission and the Member States, acting within their respective remits, to implement the Council Resolution of 6 February 2003 on 'e Accessibility'- improving the access of people with disabilities to the Knowledge Based Society, the Resolution of 5 May 2003 on equal opportunities for pupils and students with disabilities in education and training and the Resolution of 6 May 2003 on accessibility of cultural infrastructure and cultural activities for people with disabilities;
3. Calls on the Commission to increase the involvement of the disabled in the new multi-annual programmes over the coming budgetary period 2007-2013, for example the 'Culture', 'Life-long Learning', 'Youth in Action', 'MEDIA 2007' and 'Europe for the People' programmes;
4. Calls on the European Union to follow up the European Year of People with Disabilities (2003) and The European Year of Education and Sport (2004) by continuing efforts to remove exclusions affecting people with disabilities; recommends that special importance be given to the disability dimension in actions undertaken as part of the European Year of Equal Opportunities for All (2007);
5. Stresses that the de-institutionalisation, to the extent possible, of people with disabilities and the creation of appropriate structures embedded in local communities should be reflected in Member States' policies;
6. Calls on the Member States, through education and training, to promote the full social integration of children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities under the relevant framework legislation for their integration into the general educational system while, at the same time supporting, where necessary, the provision of special educational infrastructures;
7. Points out that participatory education must be accompanied by appropriate funding, specialised teaching staff, appropriate equipment, customised educational programmes and the provision of appropriate pedagogical and technical materials;
8. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to give special attention to facilitating access to mobility in education and training to people with disabilities;
9. Calls on the Member States to take appropriate measures to increase the participation of people with disabilities, especially at tertiary education level, in lifelong learning and in

atypical forms of learning;

10. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to promote the accessibility of the internet for people with disabilities, especially as regards public websites and websites relating to education and vocational training;
11. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to take the necessary measures, including the use of modern technology where necessary, to make cultural infrastructures and activities more accessible to the disabled and to increase their involvement in this area;
12. Stresses the need for measures to encourage artistic expression and creation on the part of the disabled, giving them equal opportunities regarding the creation and promotion of their works and their participation in cultural exchanges;
13. Calls on the Commission, especially within the framework of the Culture programme to promote the establishment of an annual prize for artistic creation for persons with disabilities;
14. Stresses the leading role of the media in eliminating stereotypes and prejudices regarding people with disabilities and in developing a social awareness of the problems they face in their daily lives;
15. Calls on the Member States and the Commission, particularly under the MEDIA programme, to encourage the production and dissemination of films and television programmes projecting a more positive image of the disabled;
16. Calls on the Member States to exploit to the full the facilities offered by digital television to meet the special needs of the disabled, such as better subtitling, spoken commentary and explanations using symbols, while at the same time encouraging the general use of subtitling and sign-language in analogue television programmes;
17. Stresses the important role of sport as a factor for improving the quality of life, self-esteem, independence and social integration of people with disabilities;
18. Calls on the Member States to make sports facilities more accessible, remove obstacles to participation by young disabled people in sports activities, provide incentives for their greater involvement in sport and promote sports events and competitions for disabled people such as the 'Paralympic Games'.

PROCEDURE

Title	The situation of disabled people in the enlarged European Union: European Action Plan 2006-2007
Procedure number	2006/2105(INI)
Committee responsible	EMPL
Opinion by Date announced in plenary	CULT 18.5.2006
Enhanced cooperation – Date announced in plenary	
Drafts(wo)man Date appointed	Nikolaos Sifunakis 23.1.2006
Previous drafts(wo)man	
Discussed in committee	28.8.2006 12.9.2006
Date adopted	12.9.2006
Results of final vote	+: 28 -: 1 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Maria Badia I Cutchet, Christopher Beazley, Ivo Belet, Guy Bono, Marielle De Sarnez, Marie-Hélène Descamps, Jolanta Dičkutė, Věra Flasarová, Milan Gaľa, Claire Gibault, Vasco Graça Moura, Lissy Gröner, Luis Herrero-Tejedor, Ruth Hieronymi, Manolis Mavrommatis, Marianne Mikko, Ljudmila Novak, Doris Pack, Zdzisław Zbigniew Podkański, Christa Prets, Karin Resetarits, Pál Schmitt, Nikolaos Sifunakis, Hannu Takkula, Helga Trüpel, Henri Weber, Thomas Wise, Tomáš Zatloukal
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Rolf Berend, Gyula Hegyi, Nina Škottová,
Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote	Panayotis Demetriou
Comments (available in one language only)	...