

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1401/02
by Daniela Raschhofer (NI)
to the Commission

Subject: Situation of mentally handicapped adults in the applicant countries

According to the European Association of Societies of Persons with Intellectual Disability and their Families (known as Inclusion Europe), the situation of mentally handicapped adults in the future Member States is worrying. Although the situation for mentally handicapped children has improved somewhat since the fall of the Communist regime, this is, unfortunately, not the case for adults, and instead their existence is marked by isolation and a lack of care.

The fact that the Commission has failed to deal with this matter in its progress reports is also alarming. The progress report on Romania refers only briefly to the situation of handicapped children.

1. Is the Commission aware of the problems faced by mentally handicapped adults in the future Member States?
2. If so, why has no reference been made of them in the progress reports?
3. Is the Commission planning to raise awareness of these problems not only among the public but also within the governments of the applicant countries?
4. Does it think it necessary to improve the situation of mentally handicapped adults in the applicant countries?
5. If so, what form does it believe such an improvement would take?