

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0079/03  
by Margot Keßler (PSE)  
to the Commission

Subject: The situation of people with mental disabilities in applicant countries

According to the European Association of Societies of Persons with Intellectual Disability and their Families, known as Inclusion Europe for short, the situation of people with mental disabilities in many of the future EU Member States is a cause for concern. Whereas the situation of children with mental disabilities has in some areas improved since 1989, this is unfortunately not the case for adults. Amnesty International's report of October 2002, 'Bulgaria: Far from the eyes of society. Systematic discrimination against people with mental disabilities', outlines the situation in Bulgaria as an example. The lives of people with mental disabilities remain in many cases characterised by isolation, denial of any privacy, and inadequate care.

1. How does the Commission intend to react to the violations of human rights that continue to be suffered by people with mental disabilities in applicant countries?
2. Does the Commission see a particular need to act to improve the situation of people with mental disabilities in the future Member States?
3. If so, what form does the Commission think such an improvement would take?
4. How does the Commission intend to raise awareness of the problem, not just among the public, but also among the governments of the future Member States?