Question for written answer E-003868/2020 to the Commission
Rule 138
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Subject: Disability focal points

Already in 2015, the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in its Concluding Observations recommended that disability focal points be appointed in all Commission Directorates-General (DGs) and agencies, in all EU institutions, together with the establishment of an interinstitutional coordination mechanism. The recommendation also forms part of several European Parliament resolutions 1, and it has also been made by the European Economic and Social Committee.

In spite of this, disability focal points have not yet been established. The only exception to this is the Commission’s UN CRPD in the Disability Unit of DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion 2.

1. When does the Commission envisage establishing disability focal points in all its DGs and agencies, with the main one being appointed in the Secretariat-General to reflect the cross-cutting nature of disability issues and to ensure disability mainstreaming in all EU policies and legislation?

2. What mechanism for coordination between the disability focal points in the EU institutions does the Commission envisage, and what is the state of play in terms of interinstitutional coordination between EU institutions on matters pertaining to the Convention?

3. What evidence is there of such coordination, what resources does the coordination rely on, and what observable results can the Commission point to?

Supporter³

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2 Parliament’s Committees on Employment and Social Affairs and on Women’s Rights and Gender Equality recommended that Commissioner Dalli support moving the Disability Unit to the Secretariat-General: https://www.europarl.europa.eu/resources/library/media/20191119RES66921/20191119RES66921.pdf

3 This question is supported by a Member other than the authors: Sylwia Spurek (S&D)