



**2020/2209(INI)**

26.4.2021

# **DRAFT OPINION**

of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

for the Committee on Petitions

on the protection of persons with disabilities through petitions: lessons learnt  
(2020/2209(INI))

Rapporteur for opinion: Radan Kanev

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## SUGGESTIONS

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

- A. whereas the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs highly appreciates the role of the Committee on Petitions as a bridge between the Union's citizens, Parliament and the other EU institutions;
- B. whereas approximately 1 % of all petitions received each year by the Committee on Petitions relate to various disability issues; whereas social protection and employment rights, use of the European Structural and Investment Funds in compliance with EU regulations and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD), and other issues falling within the competences of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs, are among the most common disability equality concerns voiced in the petitions received by Parliament;
- C. whereas it is generally acknowledged that persons with disabilities continue to face multiple obstacles and discrimination in everyday life and that they do not enjoy the fundamental freedoms and rights laid down in numerous EU and UN documents, such as mutual recognition of disability status between Member States, access to public transport, accessibility of the built environment, use of sign languages, financing of and equal access to education and vocational training, access to personal assistance and community inclusion;
- D. whereas several petitions were submitted in regard to the misuse of EU funds for deinstitutionalisation of persons with disabilities;
  - 1. Calls on the Commission to ensure that the Member States comply with the relevant EU and UN obligations on the rights of persons with disabilities, in particular the UN CRPD and the CRPD Committee's General Comments to the Convention, and with the relevant EU measures and funding rules, and to provide support to them in this regard;
  - 2. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to harmonise the definition of disability and to ensure mutual recognition of disability status across Member States, so as to ensure the free movement of persons with disabilities and their enjoyment of their EU citizenship rights;
  - 3. Welcomes the fact that as part of the Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030, an EU-wide Disability Card will be available by the end of 2023;
  - 4. Calls on the Member States to undertake national disability awareness campaigns promoting the UN CRPD and the EU Disability Strategy 2021-2030, and to ensure compliance with the commitments outlined in these documents;
  - 5. Calls on the Member States to implement without delay Directive (EU) 2019/882 (the European Accessibility Act) in order to effectively remove barriers for workers with disabilities, and to ensure the availability of accessible services and the suitability of the

conditions under which these services are provided;

6. Urges the Member States to ensure adequate social security coordination for persons with disabilities, including through the ongoing revision of Regulation (EC) No 883/2004.