

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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*Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality*

**2006/2105(INI)**

13.9.2006

## **OPINION**

of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

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))

Draftswoman: Eva-Britt Svensson

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## SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality 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. Regrets that the Commission communication does not include an integrated gender perspective or a separate chapter on gender-specific disability policies, despite the fact that disabled women are often in a more disadvantaged position than disabled men and are more often victims of poverty and social exclusion;
2. Stresses that disabled people are not a homogeneous group of the population and that the policies and actions planned on their behalf should take account of that lack of homogeneity and of the fact that some groups, such as disabled women, face additional difficulties and multiple forms of discrimination;
3. Calls on the Commission to pay more attention to the gender perspective and specific information on women with disabilities and parents of disabled children in the new phases of the DAP ;
4. Calls on the Commission to compile specific data and indicators for disabled women and children so as to ensure that actions and policies can be better targeted;
5. Calls respectively on the Council, the Commission and the Member States to introduce gender mainstreaming into all disability policies, and disability mainstreaming into all areas of politics, particularly as regards education and access to employment, taking into account the scope for overcoming disabilities offered by new technologies, including sometimes those that are the most widely-used on the labour market;
6. Calls on the Member States to work for active integration of the disabled into society, in particular by implementing Community legislation on the fight against discrimination and on gender equality in the employment sector, promoting access by the disabled to new technologies and more effective use of the opportunities offered by the relevant Community programmes and the European Social Fund;
7. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to pursue measures to tackle the particular problems faced by disabled women, which are attributable to both the stigma of disability and the gender factor and because of which such women are impeded from gaining access to education, the productive process and, in more general terms, to social, economic and political life;
8. Calls on the Member States, in combination with enterprises, the social partners and other stakeholders, to more vigorously explore the labour-force potential of people with disabilities, in particular by establishing a working environment geared to their needs and by organising training courses to promote an entrepreneurial spirit and encourage disabled people to enter the labour market; in this respect, calls for the specific situation of women with disabilities to be taken into account;
9. Calls on the Member States to implement more vigorously employment programmes for

the disabled so as to facilitate their integration into society and combat solitude and social exclusion, while at the same time providing preventive health care;

10. Calls on the Member States to apply the UN's 22 standard rules for the disabled and to work towards converting those rules into a legally binding convention along the lines of the UN Convention on Human Rights;
11. Notes that the measures the European Union has adopted with regard to disabled people relate almost exclusively to the establishing of a general framework for equal treatment in employment in the context of the combating of discrimination laid down in Article 13 TEC;
12. Calls on the Commission, the Council and the Member States to work towards the adoption of a horizontal anti-discrimination Directive which removes barriers in all areas of EU competence that prevent disabled people and especially disabled women and girls from achieving their full potential for social participation and independence;
13. Calls on the Member States to give special attention to disabled women, who are faced with multiple discrimination, a phenomenon which only can be challenged through a combination of mainstreaming measures and positive action measures designed in cooperation with disabled women and stakeholders of civil society;
14. Calls on the Member States to integrate the needs of people with disabilities and the specific needs of women and children with disabilities into all their policies at national, regional and local level, particularly in the fields of education, employment, housing, transport, health and social services, bearing in mind the diversity of disabilities and the fact that these may affect all categories of the population and that disabled people form a very varied group;
15. Calls on the Member States to take due account of the problems faced by parents of disabled children, who are often forced to remain outside the labour market, and to promote policies to support and assist such parents;
16. Calls on the Member States to take vigorous measures against all forms of violence against the disabled, in particular women, elderly people and children, who are frequently victims of mental and physical violence as well as sexual violence; notes that almost 80% of disabled women are victims of violence and that the risk of sexual violence is higher for them than for other women; points out that violence is not only a frequent occurrence in the lives of disabled women but is also sometimes the very cause of their disability;
17. Calls on the Member States to tackle the lack of adequate gynaecological and primary medical care for disabled women by ensuring that specialist medical personnel and appropriate facilities are available; calls on the Commission, in cooperation with the competent national authorities, to investigate the particular problems associated with health and medical care faced by disabled women, focusing on the area of prevention and information;
18. Calls on the Member States to develop both independent and collective forms of accommodation, which are of good quality and affordable for all regardless of the individual's own financial situation;

19. Calls on the Commission to urge the Member States to introduce legislation to protect the rights of disabled women in cases of sexual abuse and violence in general and within their home environments;
20. Calls on the Member States to boost the current inadequate profile and image of disabled women in the media, which would make their daily reality more widely appreciated and give them more opportunities to express themselves and take part in social and political life;
21. Urges the Commission and Member States to implement programmes to assist disabled persons, particularly women and children, to integrate as fully as possible into society;

## PROCEDURE

<b>Title</b>	The situation of disabled people in the enlarged European Union : European Action Plan 2006-2007		
<b>Procedure number</b>	2006/2105(INI)		
<b>Committee responsible</b>	EMPL		
<b>Opinion by</b> Date announced in plenary	FEMM 18.5.2006		
<b>Drafts(wo)man</b> Date appointed	Eva-Britt Svensson 24.4.2006		
<b>Previous drafts(wo)man</b>			
<b>Discussed in committee</b>	11.7.2006	12.9.2006	0.0.0000
<b>Date adopted</b>	12.9.2006		
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: -: 0:	20  2	
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Edit Bauer, Edite Estrela, Věra Flasarová, Claire Gibault, Lissy Gröner, Anneli Jäätteenmäki, Piia-Noora Kauppi, Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou, Urszula Krupa, Astrid Lulling, Siiri Oviir, Christa Prets, Marie-Line Reynaud, Raül Romeva i Rueda, Amalia Sartori, Eva-Britt Svensson, Britta Thomsen, Anna Záborská		
<b>Substitute(s) present for the final vote</b>	Iratxe García Pérez, Ana Maria Gomes, Zita Pleštinská, Karin Resetarits		
<b>Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote</b>			
<b>Comments (available in one language only)</b>	...		