Basic information

2004/2004(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
People with disabilities: equal opportunities, European action plan DAP **Subject** 4.10.06 People with disabilities	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
EMPL Employment and Social Affairs	MANTOVANI Mario (PPE-DE)	11/06/2003

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
FEMM Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities	AALTONEN Uma (V/ALE)	03/03/2004

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs	2549	2003-12-01

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
30/10/2003	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2003)0650	Summary
01/12/2003	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		
29/01/2004	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
06/04/2004	Vote in committee		Summary
06/04/2004	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0263/2004	
20/04/2004	Decision by Parliament	T5-0292/2004	Summary
20/04/2004	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2004/2004(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 55
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	EMPL/5/20617

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0263/2004	06/04/2004	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0292/2004 OJ C 104 30.04.2004, p. 0033-0153 E	20/04/2004	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(2003)0650	30/10/2003	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(2005)0604	28/11/2005	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES0311/2004 OJ C 110 30.04.2004, p. 0026-0029	25/02/2004	

People with disabilities: equal opportunities, European action plan DAP

2004/2004(INI) - 30/10/2003 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE : to present an Action Plan to promote equal opportunities for people with disabilities. CONTENT : this Communication aims to achieve a sustainable and operational approach to disability issues in the enlarged Europe. It will provide a reference point and framework for reinforcement of the disability dimension in all relevant EU policies, while supporting or stimulating policies at national level. The present Communication accordingly outlines forward-looking EU initiatives aimed at the further inclusion of people with disabilities in an enlarged EU economy and society as a whole. Three operational objectives are central to the proposed approach: achieving full application of the Equal treatment in Employment and Occupation Directive (2000/78/EC), reinforcing mainstreaming of disability issues in relevant Community policies, and improving accessibility for all. In particular, this Communication introduces a rolling multi-annual Action Plan with the time horizon of 2010. The goal of the Action Plan is to mainstream disability issues into relevant Community policies and develop concrete actions in crucial areas to enhance the integration of people with disabilities. As an instrument to support mainstreaming of disability issues in key EU policies, the Commission will publish a biennial report on the overall situation of people with disabilities in the enlarged EU, taking on board new developments in the Member States. At the same time, the Commission proposes to reinforce the involvement of stakeholders and key players in the policy dialogue in order to bring about far reaching and lasting changes within the economy and society as a whole. As employment remains the most critical factor for social inclusion, the first phase of implementation of the EU

Disability Action Plan - which is due to be developed in 2004 and 2005 - will focus on creating the conditions necessary to promote the employment of people with disabilities, while making the mainstream labour market more accessible to them across the enlarged Union. Accordingly, the first phase of this Action Plan will concentrate on four concrete employment-related priority actions: - access to, and retention in, employment including the fight against discrimination; - lifelong learning to support and increase employability, adaptability, personal development and active citizenship; - new technologies to empower people with disabilities and therefore facilitate access to employment; - accessibility to the public built environment to improve participation in the work place and integration into the economy and society. The Commission biennial Report on the overall situation of people with disabilities in the enlarged Europe will be used as a basis for identifying new priorities to be addressed in the following phases of the Action Plan in the light of the impact of EU policies on the situation of people with disabilities. The first report is planned for 2005. It will aim to stimulate debate with the Member States and all interested parties, including NGOs representing people with disabilities, on best practice and new priorities for the subsequent phases of the Action Plan.

People with disabilities: equal opportunities, European action plan DAP

2004/2004(INI) - 20/04/2004 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution based on the own-initiative report drafted by Mario MANTOVANI (EPP-ED, I). (Please see the summary of 06/04/04.) Parliament felt that the future treaty establishing a constitution for Europe must provide for stronger measures to make it possible to combat discrimination and promote respect for human rights and opportunities for people with disabilities, and especially those with a high degree of dependency and/or who are unable to represent themselves unaided, with due regard for the model of a social Europe based on the principle of solidarity. Member States should make greater use of qualified majority voting and the codecision procedure for the adoption of legislative measures designed to combat discrimination. Parliament also stressed the importance of the pilot project to follow up the 2003 European Year of People with Disabilities adopted in the European Parliament 2004 budget in order to promote mainstreaming of disability issues in the various European policies and encourage the development of partnerships between disabled peoples' organisations and leading figures in economic, social and cultural life and the media. It asked the Commission to submit a proposal for a specific action programme with effect from the 2005 budget.

People with disabilities: equal opportunities, European action plan DAP

2004/2004(INI) - 28/11/2005

The long-term EU strategy for those with a disability is to offer them equal opportunities in life with the key objective being to offer disabled people the chance to live independently and to participate fully in society. The EU strategy is built on three pillars. The first relates to EU anti-discrimination legislation, which provide access to individual rights, the second seeks to eliminate environmental barriers preventing disabled people from exercising their abilities and the third is to mainstream disability issues in the broad range of Community policies in order to include, rather than exclude, those with a disability. In addition, the EU has established a “Disability Action Plan” (DAP) in a bid to ensure a coherent policy follow-up to the European Year of the Disabled in an enlarged Europe.

The Communication identifies priority actions for the second phase of DAP, which is set to last from 2006-2007 with an emphasis on the active inclusion of people with disabilities. At the same time, the Commission calls on the Member States to encourage the inclusion of disabled people in the forthcoming Reform Programmes for growth and jobs. This Communication acts as the first EU report on the overall situation of disabled people. It is to act as a tool for those formulating disability policies across Europe.

In its conclusion, the Commission notes that there is a broad consensus in the EU on the need to tackle disability issues. Emphasis must be placed on extending dignity to the disabled, guaranteeing their fundamental rights, offering them protection against discrimination and guaranteeing their social inclusion. The Commission recognises that issues relating to the disabled are chiefly the responsibility of the Member States and that any initiative can be most effectively handled at a national level. One area in which the EU can and does offer support is through the EU Action Plan, with operational help from the European Social Fund. The Report suggest that mainstreaming is key to advancing disability issues and takes note of the fact that the revised Lisbon strategy gives a greater emphasis on the mainstreaming of disability issues at a Member State level.

The new actions being proposed in line with the second phase of the DAP seek to encourage activity as well as promoting access to social services, while fostering accessible goods and services. Moreover, reliable and comparable statistical data on disability and information on multiple discrimination will be gathered by the Commission. Lastly, the Commission will monitor implementation of the proposed actions through a continuous dialogue with all interested parties. A mid-term evaluation of the Action Plan will take place in 2008 as planned.