Basic information

2006/2105(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
Situation of disabled people in the enlarged European Union: the European action plan 2006-2007 **Subject** 4.10.06 People with disabilities	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
EMPL Employment and Social Affairs	LYNNE Elizabeth (ALDE)	14/12/2005

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
ITRE Industry, Research and Energy	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
CULT Culture and Education	SIFUNAKIS Nikolaos (PSE)	23/01/2006
FEMM Women's Rights and Gender Equality	SVENSSON Eva-Britt (GUE/NGL)	24/04/2006

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion	ŠPIDLA Vladimír

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
28/11/2005	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2005)0604	Summary
18/05/2006	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
05/10/2006	Vote in committee		Summary
13/10/2006	Committee report tabled for plenary	A6-0351/2006	
30/11/2006	Decision by Parliament	T6-0527/2006	Summary
30/11/2006	Results of vote in Parliament		

30/11/2006	Debate in Parliament		
30/11/2006	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2006/2105(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/6/36435

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE374.494	19/07/2006	
Committee opinion	CULT	PE376.657	12/09/2006	
Committee opinion	FEMM	PE378.609	13/09/2006	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE378.581	20/09/2006	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A6-0351/2006	13/10/2006	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T6-0527/2006	30/11/2006	Summary

European Commission

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

Situation of disabled people in the enlarged European Union: the European action plan 2006-2007

2006/2105(INI) - 30/11/2006 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution based on the own-initiative report drawn up by Liz **LYNNE** (ALDE, UK) in response to the Commission communication on the situation of disabled people in the enlarged EU. (Please see the summary of 05/10/2006.) It began by stressing that non-discrimination in access to goods and services must be guaranteed for every EU citizen and called on the Commission to propose a directive specifically targeting people with disabilities on the basis of Article 13 of the EC Treaty. Parliament looked at the situation of disabled people in relation to transport, employment, access to information, access to buildings, education and care and the role of social services. It emphasised that there were many forms of disability, including people with mobility problems, visual impairments, hearing impairments, mental health problems, chronic illnesses and learning disabilities. People with multiple disabilities have exceptional problems, and greater attention should be paid to elderly people with disabilities and women with disabilities.

Parliament made the following principal points:

- Directive 2001/85/EC should be strengthened in order to bring it into line with Regulation 1107/2006/EC concerning the rights of disabled persons when travelling by air. The Commission was encouraged to extend the same legislative rights to persons with disabilities in relation to all modes of transport over time;

- over 80% of public websites, including those of the European institutions, are generally not accessible to people with disabilities, and those institutions were encouraged to rectify this;

- there was a need to launch information campaigns to ensure that employers view the engagement of people with disabilities without any kind of prejudice, in particular, as regards misconceptions concerning the financial costs of employment and candidates' capabilities; people with disabilities under Directive 2000/78/EC and ways of protecting these rights and urges the trade unions to do all in their power to inform members of their rights under the Directive;

- Member States should take due account of the problems faced by parents of children with disabilities, who are often forced to remain outside the labour market, and to promote policies to support such parents; they should also use economic and social instruments to increase the scope for providing care to people with disabilities as part of intergenerational solidarity;

- the Commission must work with Member States to encourage the integration of people with disabilities, from an early age, in mainstream education, whilst still acknowledging in some cases that special schools are necessary;

- Parliament stressed the important role of sport as a factor for improving the quality of life, self-esteem, independence and social integration of people with disabilities;

- the different types of disability required personalised care that takes due account of the disabilities of growing children and those of adults;

- initiatives must be encouraged that develop greater interaction between the public and the mentally disabled, and to de-stigmatise people with mental health problems. Parliament appealed for the necessary support for the families of people with a profound disability;

and sign-language in analogue television programmes;

- vigorous measures must be taken against all forms of violence against people with disabilities, in particular women, elderly people and children, who are frequently victims of mental and physical as well as sexual violence;

- Parliament welcomed moving away from the institutionalisation of people with disabilities, but noted that deinstitutionalisation required a sufficient level of community-based services of high quality, favouring independent living, the right to assistance, and full participation in society within Member States;

- the Commission was asked to press for a European charter on quality of support for people with disabilities with a view to ensuring a high level of integration and participation, whatever the method of support – home, institution or a combination of methods;

- Parliament expressed concern that the Commission had not sufficiently considered the human rights of people with disabilities in assessing compliance with the Copenhagen Criteria within the process of EU enlargement;

- it called for a common European definition of disability;

- the Commission needs to define more clearly in its text the projects that had already been started under the Disability Action Plan; it should also pay more attention to the gender perspective and specific information on women with disabilities and parents of children with disabilities in the new phases of the Disability Action Plan.

Situation of disabled people in the enlarged European Union: the European action plan 2006-2007

2006/2105(INI) - 28/11/2005 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE : Commission Communication on the European Action Plan 2006-2007 on the situation of disabled people in the enlarged EU.

CONTENT : The EU Disability Action Plan (DAP) - established by the European Commission to ensure a coherent policy follow-up to the European Year of Disabled people in the enlarged Europe - provides a dynamic framework to develop the EU disability strategy. This Communication identifies priority objectives and actions for the second phase (2006-2007) of the DAP, focusing on the active inclusion of people with disabilities. Given the current demographic situation, the economic potential of disabled people and the contribution they can make to economic and employment growth must be further activated on the basis of the Social Agenda for 2005-2010. Moreover, in support of the refocused Lisbon strategy, this Communication calls on Member States to promote inclusion of disabled people in their forthcoming Reform Programmes for growth and jobs. This Communication is also the first EU report on the overall situation of disabled people which the Commission has undertaken to publish biennially on the European Day of Disabled People. It will be a tool for disability policy-makers throughout Europe, complementing and adding value to their policies and actions.

Three operational objectives are central to the DAP:

- full implementation of the Employment Equality Directive;

- successful mainstreaming of disability issues in relevant Community policies; and

- improving accessibility for all.

The DAP covers the period 2004-2010 in successive phases, each highlighting a number of inter-linked priorities. Phase 1 runs from 2004 to 2005, phase 2 from 2006 to 2007.

Priority areas for the second phase (2006-2007): Phase two of the DAP will focus on active inclusion of people with disabilities, building on the citizens' concept of disability as reflected in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, and on the values inherent in the forthcoming UN Convention on the protection and promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities. It is implicit in the citizens' concept that disabled people have the same individual choices and control in their everyday life as non-disabled people. This emphasises the need for an environment that enables disabled people to be more independent.

Under the following four priorities, actions will promote **the independent living of people with disabilities**:

- encouraging activity: strategies for the adaptation and reintegration into working life of people who become disabled during their working life will be encouraged. Rehabilitation services, individualised personal assistance and making work pay will be promoted.
- Promoting access to quality support and care services
- Fostering accessibility of goods and services: work on services, transport and increased accessibility of ICT, including access to the new generation of assistive systems, will add to current actions on accessibility of public buildings. Accessible transport systems will be promoted in and between urban areas.
- Increasing the EU's analytical capacity: studies analysing data obtained from previous Eurostat surveys and the Labour Force Survey as well as data from Member States' administrative registers will be launched. The Sixth Framework Programme for Research, technological development and demonstration activities (2002-2006, FP6), and the forthcoming Seventh Research Framework Programme (2007-2013) will continue to fund research in the area of disability.

Disability actions are chiefly the responsibility of Member States and are most effectively dealt with at national level. Increased mainstreaming of disability under the EU Action Plan, with operational support from the European Social Fund, contributes to equal opportunities in the enlarged Europe. The Commission will monitor implementation of the proposed actions through a continuous dialogue with all the stakeholders concerned. Midterm evaluation of the Action Plan will take place in 2008 as planned.