



18th February 2016

A Chara,

As Vice-President of the Disability Intergroup in the European Parliament and member of the Employment and Social Affairs Committee, I am pleased to inform you about a public consultation which the European Commission is currently holding on **the review of the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020** which will run until the **18th of March 2016**.

The Disability Strategy provides a mechanism for the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), to which the European Union is a party.

The Strategy has identified eight main areas for action at EU level: Accessibility, Participation, Equality, Employment, Education and training, Social protection, Health and External action.

The public consultation asks for 3 things:

- your opinion on **what has been achieved so far** in each of these areas,
- your views on **the challenges** faced by all persons with disabilities,
- **how the EU should address** these challenges.

Replies are welcome from citizens, organisations, public authorities, businesses, academics and other stakeholders. The EU is also supposed to take into account the specific situation of older people with functional limitations, such as frailty and dementia in the implementation of its disability strategy. This is because older people in need of care and assistance are considered as persons with disabilities for the purposes of the UN Convention. Older people's organisations are also encouraged to reply to this consultation directly to bring forward the specific challenges faced by older people who acquire impairments and other types of limitations in their everyday life as they get older.

I would encourage you to participate in the consultation and to also share the details with your members and across your social media platforms. I include here the link to complete the consultation survey online: <http://bit.ly/1RK8DvM> and also attach an accessible word version and an easy to read simplified version which can be completed offline and returned to the below email or postal addresses.



Европейски парламент Parlamento Europeo Evropský parlament Europa-Parlamentet Europäisches Parlament
Euroopa Parlament Ευρωπαϊκό Κοινοβούλιο European Parliament Parlement européen Parlaimint na hEorpa
Europski parlament Parlamento europeo Eiropas Parlaments Europos Parlamentas Európai Parlament
Parlament Ewropew Europees Parlement Parlament Europejski Parlamento Europeu Parlamentul European
Európsky parlament Evropski parlament Euroopan parlamentti Europaparlamentet

Responsible service: DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

E-mail : EMPL-C3-CONSULTATION@ec.europa.eu

Postal address: DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, Unit C.3 (Disability and Inclusion), B-1049 Brussels, BELGIUM

In the interests of transparency, organisations have been invited to provide the public with relevant information about themselves by registering on the [EU's Transparency Register](#) and subscribing to its Code of Conduct. If the organisation is not registered, the submission is published separately from the registered organisations. Also important to note is the contributions received might be published on the internet, unless the respondent indicates that the information should be kept confidential.

For your information regarding the UNCRPD, 25 of the 28 EU Member States as well as the EU have ratified the Convention; however Ireland is one of the three who have not. I have written to the Minister about this on a number of occasions and as soon as a new Minister is appointed I will again contact her/him.

Also for your information, I am currently working as a Shadow Rapporteur on a draft report of the Employment and Social Affairs Committee entitled ***Implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities with special regard to the Concluding Observations of the UN CRPD Committee***. The draft report is not yet available but I expect it will be in approximately two weeks. I will send you a copy of the report and I would be very pleased to receive your comments or perhaps the comments of your national or representative organisation.

Kind regards,

Marian Harkin MEP

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