

# Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	<a href="#">2004/2004(INI)</a>	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
	<b>EMPL</b> Employment and Social Affairs		11/06/2003
		PPE-DE <a href="#">MANTOVANI Mario</a>	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	<b>FEMM</b> Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities		03/03/2004
		V/ALE <a href="#">AALTONEN Uma</a>	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	<a href="#">Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs2549</a>		01/12/2003
European Commission	Commission DG <a href="#">Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion</a>	Commissioner	

Key events			
30/10/2003	Non-legislative basic document published	<a href="#">COM(2003)0650</a>	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	<a href="#">A5-0263/2004</a>	
20/04/2004	Decision by Parliament	<a href="#">T5-0292/2004</a>	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 54
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	EMPL/5/20617

## Documentation gateway

Non-legislative basic document	<a href="#">COM(2003)0650</a>	30/10/2003	EC	Summary
Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	<a href="#">CES0311/2004</a> <a href="#">OJ C 110 30.04.2004, p. 0026-0029</a>	25/02/2004	ESC	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading	<a href="#">A5-0263/2004</a>	06/04/2004	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading	<a href="#">T5-0292/2004</a> <a href="#">OJ C 104 30.04.2004, p. 0033-0153 E</a>	20/04/2004	EP	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	<a href="#">COM(2005)0604</a>	28/11/2005	EC	Summary

## People with disabilities: equal opportunities, European action plan DAP

**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.?

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The committee adopted the own-initiative report drawn up by Mario MANTOVANI (EPP-ED, I) in response to the Commission communication. MEPs welcomed the Commission's proposed European Action Plan as a follow-up to the European Year of People with Disabilities (2003), but regretted the Plan's overemphasis and rather narrow focus on employment and education policy. Pointing out that there would be 50 million people with a wide range of disabilities in the enlarged EU, the report said that attention must be focused on all areas of life. The committee also called for gender mainstreaming to be introduced into all disability policies and called on the Commission and the Member States to take vigorous measures against all forms of violence against disabled women. MEPs were critical of the lack of legislative proposals in the Action Plan and repeated Parliament's longstanding demand for a directive to combat discrimination based on disabilities in areas not covered by Directive 2000/78/EC (on equal treatment in employment and occupation). They also urged Member States which had not yet done so to transpose the "equal treatment" directive fully as soon as possible and to develop training measures for those responsible for its implementation, including judges. And they wanted to see greater use of qualified majority voting in the Council and the codecision procedure for the adoption of legislative measures designed to combat discrimination. The committee stressed the importance of the biennial report on people with disabilities as an instrument for raising awareness and promoting good practice, and said that disabled people's organisations should be actively involved in the decision-making process at national and European level. It wanted particular support to be given to such organisations in the enlargement countries to assist them in the transition to accession. MEPs also wanted disability issues to be mainstreamed into certain areas of Community legislation, such as the Structural Funds, for example by including a disabled access requirement in the rules governing the funding of infrastructure, building projects and training modules, including training in new information and telecommunications technologies. While welcoming the Commission's commitment to promote the principle of 'design for all' in

Community policies in the built environment, they wanted to see a more ambitious strategy and called for the recommendations of the EU expert report on "Accessibility for All" to be implemented without delay. An appropriate legislative framework should be drawn up laying down common rules on accessibility to goods, services and infrastructures and accompanied by incentives for business and the promotion of public/private partnerships. ?

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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.?