

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr SASSANO, Mr ANTONIOZZI, Mr COLLESELLI and
Mr DEL DUCA

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on the recognition of the equal rights of all disabled
in the Community and adoption of the European Charter
for the severely disabled by all the Member States

The European Parliament,

- A. Having regard to the constant interest in the problem of the disabled manifested by the Council of Europe which, since its creation, has adopted more than 50 recommendations and resolutions on the subject,
- B. Whereas a working party under the auspices of the Council of Europe is setting up a coordinated system for collecting information on the disabled under which comparable data can be obtained from the various Member States,
- C. Whereas the UN decision to proclaim 1981 the year of the handicapped gave renewed prominence to the problem of the disabled,
- D. Endorsing the opinion adopted by the Economic and Social Committee at its 189th plenary session (1-3 July 1981),
- E. Hoping that the reference document prepared by the Commission of the European Communities in the form of a communication to the Council on the social integration of minorities on 29 October 1981 will meet with the necessary approval as soon as possible,
- F. Whereas, although the Council of Europe adopted a resolution on a European Charter for the severely disabled on 4.11.1977, five years have elapsed without any appreciable results,
- G. Whereas the Council of Europe has proposed that the agreement on the European Charter be applied provisionally only to German and French citizens,
- H. Whereas the European Charter should be applied not only to those handicapped from birth but also to those disabled at work, disabled servicemen, and all those disabled in service to the State and the community as a whole,
- I. Whereas, although little mention is made of disabled servicemen and war wounded in Community documents, they are the handicapped par excellence since they were disabled not by some quirk of nature but by sacrificing their physical integrity for the good of the community,

- J. Whereas the degree of civilization and democracy of a people is judged by the respect it has for human rights and particularly the rights of the defenceless,
1. Calls for equal rights for all the handicapped of the Member States, particularly all those wounded or disabled in service to the State and the community, who so far have tended to be forgotten;
 2. Again recommends that the Commission contact the various Member States with a view to harmonizing the current national definitions of invalidity such as those used as criteria for granting allowances and special employment benefits;
 3. Considers it necessary to urge the Commission, as the Economic and Social Committee did in 1981, to carry out an immediate statistical survey of the handicapped in order to identify the most acute problems in the various Member States that warrant attention from the Community;
 4. Calls for the creation of a European area that will allow the handicapped to lead a normal life (transport, traffic, public buildings) and no longer favour the handicapped of some Member States more than the others;
 5. Considers it essential for all the Member States to adopt the European Charter for the severely disabled forthwith;
 6. Calls for a rapid Community solution to all the problems that may arise in the definition of disability and percentage disability needed by the competent authorities before they can apply the European Charter;
 7. Considers it right and proper to create an annual Council of Europe prize to be awarded to the local community in Europe that does most to promote the well-being of the disabled;
 8. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council and the Governments of the Member States.

