

**Question for written answer E-001879/2013  
to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**Ivo Vajgl (ALDE)**

Subject: Implementation at EU level of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The *UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations, is the first international act in the field of human rights to which the EU itself has acceded (in 2010), but the EU has not yet ratified the *Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*, which defines, *inter alia*, the possibilities for appeal in the event of a violation of the provisions of the CRPD. The convention is the umbrella document at international level on the rights of persons with disabilities and the means of safeguarding those rights.

In the *EU Charter of Fundamental Rights* we committed to respecting the rights 'of persons with disabilities to benefit from measures designed to ensure their independence, social and occupational integration and participation in the life of the community',<sup>1</sup> and in the *European Disability Strategy 2010–2020*<sup>2</sup> to eliminating the various barriers facing persons with disabilities. In December 2012 the 3<sup>rd</sup> European Parliament of Persons with Disabilities adopted a resolution on '*A vision for the next decade: Implementing the UN CRPD in times of crisis*', in which it drew attention to the urgent need to adopt a European Accessibility Act laying down measures to improve access to goods and services in the European market for people with disabilities.

Commission Vice-President Viviane Reding, who is responsible for justice, fundamental rights and citizenship, promised MEPs at the start of 2011 that a European Accessibility Act would be adopted by the end of 2012. When does the Commission intend to prepare this act and submit it for adoption?

How does the Commission intend to respond to the proposal set out in the resolution adopted by the 3<sup>rd</sup> European Parliament of Persons with Disabilities that it should draw up a directive on the accessibility for persons with disabilities of public websites and websites providing services to the public, and that it should revise Directive 2000/78/EC so as to guarantee a framework for equal treatment of persons with disabilities in employment and occupation?

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<sup>1</sup> Article 26 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, Official Journal of the EU, C 83/397 (30.3.2010), <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2010:083:0389:0403:en:PDF>

<sup>2</sup> European Disability Strategy 2010-2020: A Renewed Commitment to a Barrier-Free Europe, <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0636:FIN:EN:PDF>