

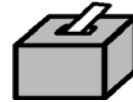


Our 10 demands to the future Members of the European Parliament

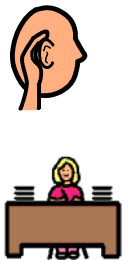
There are a lot of people with disabilities in Europe.
Over 50 million.



Many of us will participate
at the European elections in June 2009.

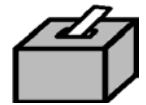


So we ask the candidates to listen to us.
They should take our demands into account.
They should do this until June 2009 and also after,
when they will be elected as MEPs.



Here are our 10 demands.

1. Elections must be fully accessible and we have the right to be candidate at the elections.



It must be possible for us to vote, wherever we live.
This is also true for people living in residential institutions.



All documents distributed must be accessible.

This means for example

- large print
- easy-to-read language
- Braille



For elections to be accessible, it is also important that
discussions between candidates are accessible.

This means for example with sign language
or with subtitles on television programmes.

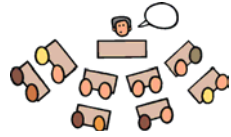


Finally,

- the voting place must be accessible
- the voting material must be accessible
- how, where and when the voting takes place
must be clearly explained

And we also have the right to be candidates if we wish to.

2. The European Parliament must be fully accessible



This means that the place must be accessible for wheelchair users.



But also that all documents, websites and meetings must be accessible for all of us.



3. The UN Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities must become law in all countries.



All European countries must accept this Convention and must implement it.

This means that all countries have to sign it and to respect what is written in it about our rights.



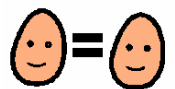
4. Europe must have clear ideas on what it will do to help disabled people.

We face lots of barriers.
We are still often excluded from the society.



These problems should be solved.
A paper must be written to ensure that

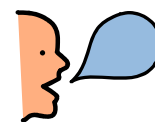
- We have equal opportunities
- and that we have equal chances to participate in all areas of life like education, transport, health care and employment.



There should not be either any new barriers in the future.
This should also be written in the document.

This document should be called “a Disability Pact”.

5. We must be allowed to say what we think and we must be taken into account.



We are part of the society.
We want chances to say what we think.
We want politicians at EU or national level to listen to us.

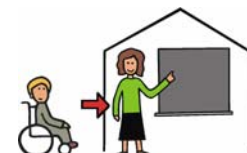


A lot of new laws are written, in many different areas.
Politicians must think at what these new laws mean for the life of people with disabilities.
People should not forget us when they write new laws.



6. Education must be fully accessible for all of us.

We must be able to follow courses with non-disabled people.
This is called inclusive education.
Everybody can go to the same school.
But the needs of disabled people must be taken into account.
For example, people with intellectual disabilities must have more time to learn new things.



7. We must have equal access to employment and get the same salary.

We must have equal chances to get a job.
And we must receive the same salary if we do the same work as a non-disabled person.
Also employers must change a little bit the workplace so it is accessible for everybody.



8. Europe must fight against poverty of disabled people

We and our families will be the first victims of the financial crisis.
We should receive support.
We want enough money to have a good life.



We also need to be taken care of when we are out of our country.
For example if we are ill or if something bad happens to us.



9. We want to live included in the community and to make our own choices.

We have the right to decide where we want to live.
We have the right to take our own decisions
in all areas of our life.

For people with more severe disabilities,
Family members are really important.
They are the best persons to support the choices
of people with disabilities.

Services must be available in towns and villages.
These services must respond to the needs
of the disabled people and their families.

10. We must get full accessibility to transport, public places and information.

Disabled people must have access to

- All public buildings (like the town hall or, the police station)
- All public spaces (like parks or playgrounds)
- All restaurants, bars, museums
- All streets, pedestrian crossings and public transports.

And disabled people must be safe when they go to these places.

Disabled people must also have access to

- All information
- All electronic communication tools,
like internet or mobile phones.

Disabled people should not have to pay higher price
to have things like internet at home.

Disabled people have the right

- To travel
- To book places at concerts or events
- To manage a bank account on the internet

