

Ministers' Deputies
CM Documents

CM(2006)108 revised 2 9 August 2006¹

973 Meeting, 13 September 2006

6 Social cohesion

6.2 Council of Europe Disability Action Plan to promote the rights and full participation of people with disabilities in society: improving the quality of life of people with disabilities in Europe 2006-2015

Draft terms of reference for the forum to be designated in conformity with Recommendation Rec(2006)5

Item prepared by the Rapporteur Group for Social and Health Questions (GR-SOC) at its meeting on 11 July 2006

Recommendation Rec(2006)5 on the Council of Europe Disability Action Plan to promote the rights and full participation of people with disabilities in society: improving the quality of life of people with disabilities in Europe 2006-2015 was adopted at the 961st meeting of the Ministers' Deputies on 5 April 2006. On adopting the action plan, the Deputies invited their Rapporteur Group on Social and Health Questions (GR-SOC) to examine, at one of its forthcoming meetings, draft terms of reference for the forum to be designated in conformity with the Disability Action Plan, and allowing for the fullest participation of all member states. The draft terms of reference appear below.

The amendments to the draft terms of reference proposed at the meeting of the GR-SOC on 11 July were distributed in document CM(2006)108rev, and delegations were invited to submit to the Secretariat any further amendments by Friday 28 July 2006. This document reflects in bold type the additional amendments proposed by the delegations of Ireland and the United Kingdom.

Draft terms of reference

- Name of Committee:** European Co-ordination Forum for the Council of Europe Disability Action Plan 2006-2015 (CAHPAH)
- Type of Committee:** Ad hoc Committee
- Source of terms of reference:** Committee of Ministers

¹ This document has been classified restricted at the date of issue. Unless the Committee of Ministers decides otherwise, it will be declassified according to the rules set up in Resolution Res(2001)6 on access to Council of Europe documents.

4. Terms of reference:

Under the authority of the Committee of Ministers within the general framework of Recommendation Rec(2006)5 of 5 April 2006;

Having regard to:

- the Action Plan adopted at the Third Summit of the Heads of State and Government held in Warsaw on 16-17 May 2005,
- the ministerial Declaration of the Second European Conference of Ministers responsible for integration policies for people with disabilities held in Malaga on 7-8 May 2003,

the European Co-ordination Forum (hereinafter called "the Forum") is instructed to assist with political action and the promotion, implementation and follow-up of the "Council of Europe Action Plan to promote the rights and full participation of people with disabilities in society: improving the quality of life of people with disabilities in Europe 2006-2015", and to effectively co-ordinate relevant intergovernmental and intra-institutional co-operation in this area, as well as cooperation with interested international organisations and observers.

The Forum will undertake the following action:

i. Promotion

Contribute to the widest possible dissemination of Recommendation Rec(2006)5 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the "Council of Europe Action Plan to promote the rights and full participation of people with disabilities in society: improving the quality of life of people with disabilities in Europe 2006 – 2015" (hereinafter called "Disability Action Plan") among civil society, **and where appropriate**² through ~~targeted~~ cooperation with international non-governmental organisations with participatory status in the Council of Europe.

ii. Implementation

The Forum shall assist member states, at their request, in evaluating their existing disability policy programmes and underlying basic principles against the blueprint of the Disability Action Plan to identify in which areas progress has yet to be made and which specific actions should be ~~carried out~~ **prioritised**.³

The Forum shall assist member states, at their request, in their elaboration of strategies, co-ordinated disability policy programmes and actions to progressively advance in line with the Disability Action Plan, which could be reflected, *inter alia* in the establishment of a timetable and measures to monitor progress. The Forum ~~will advise member states at their request when they devise and organise activities at national level~~ **may respond to requests from member states for advice in organising and devising activities at national level**.³

The Forum will provide a platform for European co-ordination, co-operation between institutions and with interested international organisations and observers, and multidisciplinary project development, as appropriate.

iii. Follow-up

The Forum shall, as stated in the Recommendation Rec(2006)5, assist with the follow-up of the Disability Action Plan, which should focus on strengthening co-operation in the field of disability and should allow for effective exchange of information, experience and best practice in a structured way.

² Amendment proposed by Ireland.

³ Amendment proposed by the United Kingdom

5. Composition:

5.A Members

Governments of member states are entitled to appoint representatives of the highest possible rank from the relevant public authority responsible for policies with regard to people with disabilities, including experts in the field of rehabilitation and integration of people with disabilities.

The competencies of member states representatives to the Forum should correspond to the comprehensive multidisciplinary nature of the Council of Europe Disability Action Plan 2006-2015 **as well as the need for continuity, through availing when appropriate of the expertise of the Committee on the Rehabilitation and Integration of People with Disabilities (CD-P-RR).**⁴

The Council of Europe budget will bear the travel and subsistence expenses of one representative from each members state (two in case of the state whose representative has been elected Chair).

Each state shall have one vote.

5.B Participants

- i. The following Committees may each send representatives to meetings of the Forum, without the right to vote and at the charge of the corresponding Council of Europe sub-heads:

Committee on the Rehabilitation and Integration of People with Disabilities (Partial Agreement) (CD-P-RR),
Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH),
European Committee on Legal Co-operation (CDCJ),
European Committee for Social Cohesion (CDCS),
European Health Committee (CDSP),
Governmental Committee of the European Social Charter (T-SG),
Steering Committee for Equality between Women and Men (CDEG),
Steering Committee for Education (CDED),
Steering Committee for Culture (CDCULT),
Steering Committee for Cultural Heritage (CDPAT),
Steering Committee on the Media and New Communication Services (CDMC),

The Forum may invite representatives of other committees and bodies of the Council of Europe to specific meetings depending on the agenda of the respective meeting, without the right to vote and at the charge of the corresponding heads of the Council of Europe budget.

- ii. The Parliamentary Assembly may send representatives to meetings of the Forum, without the right to vote and at the charge of its administrative budget.
- iii. The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe may send representatives to meetings of the Forum, without the right to vote and at the charge of its administrative budget.
- iv. The Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights may send representatives to meetings of the Forum, without the right to vote and at the charge of its administrative budget.
- v. The Council of Europe Development Bank may send representatives to meetings of the Forum, without the right to vote and at the charge of its administrative budget.
- vi. The Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe may send representatives to meetings of the Forum, without the right to vote and at the charge of the sending body.

⁴ Amendment proposed by Ireland.

5.C Other participants

- i. The European Commission may send a representative to meetings of the Forum without the right to vote or defrayal of expenses.
- ii. The following intergovernmental organisations may send representatives to meetings of the Forum without the right to vote or defrayal of expenses:

United Nations Organization (UNO),
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO),
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF),
World Health Organization (WHO),
International Labour Organisation (ILO),
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP),
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).
- iii. The states with observer status with the Council of Europe (Canada, Holy See, Japan, Mexico, United States of America) may send representatives to meetings of the Forum without the right to vote or defrayal of expenses.

5.D Observers

The following non-governmental organisation may send a representative to meetings of the Forum without the right to vote or defrayal of expenses:

European Disability Forum (EDF).

6. Working methods and structures:

The Forum shall meet once a year for two days in Strasbourg.

With the view to reaching its objectives, the Forum may arrange consultations, by means of hearings or by any other means, as appropriate.

The Forum may appoint a rapporteur, a drafting committee or both.

Where necessary, in order to expedite the progress of its work, the Forum may entrust a limited number of its members with a specific task.

The Forum may request the Secretary General to have recourse where appropriate to the service of one or more consultants, within the limits of budgetary appropriations of the forum.

The Forum will manage the progress assessment by establishing necessary procedures and timetables for future follow-up. It will prepare evaluation criteria to enable progress review.

The Forum will ensure that the Committee of Ministers is regularly informed about progress made in the implementation of the Disability Action Plan.

7. Duration:

These terms of reference will be assessed by 31 December 2009 and, if appropriate, will be renewed for a specific period in the light of the progress in the implementation of the Disability Action Plan.