EUROPEAN COMMISSION
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3rd European Parliament of Persons with Disabilities “Implementing the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with disabilities in a period of crisis": - Official opening by Martin SCHULZ, EP President - extracts from the Plenary Session

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The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol was adopted on 13 December 2006 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, and was opened for signature on 30 March 2007. The Convention follows decades of work by the United Nations to change attitudes and approaches to persons with disabilities. It takes to a new height the movement from viewing persons with disabilities as "objects" of charity, medical treatment and social protection towards viewing persons with disabilities as "subjects" with rights, who are capable of claiming those rights and making decisions for their lives based on their free and informed consent as well as being active members of society. The Convention is intended as a human rights instrument with an explicit, social development dimension. It adopts a broad categorization of persons with disabilities and reaffirms that all persons with all types of disabilities must enjoy all human rights and fundamental freedoms. It clarifies and qualifies how all categories of rights apply to persons with disabilities and identifies areas where adaptations have to be made for persons with disabilities to effectively exercise their rights and areas where their rights have been violated, and where protection of rights must be reinforced.

Only the original language version is authentic and it prevails in the event of its differing from the translated versions.

TIME	DESCRIPTION	DURATION
00:00:00	Title	00:00:05
00:00:05	Exterior view of the European Parliament building in Brussels	00:00:05
00:00:10	Arrival of Martin SCHULZ, EP President	00:00:08
00:00:18	SOUNDBITE (German) Martin SCHULZ, EP President:"The European Parliament by organising this event has shown once again its commitment to promoting the right of persons with disabilities. Personally speaking, I am firmly convinced that the degree of the development of a society can be measured throughout how this society treats its most vulnerable members".	00:00:35
00:00:53	SOUNDBITE (German) Martin SCHULZ, EP President: "We have to try to remove the barriers to full access to health care. All of these obstacles and barriers must be removed. We have to work for inclusion and solidarity."	00:00:14

00:01:07	SOUNDBITE (Italian), Roberta ANGELILLI, Vice-President of the European Parliament, (EPP, IT): "We should allow this different able people to enjoy the same access to services. They should have the same access to work, and they should have the same opportunities because they are European citizens like anyone else. There about 80 millions persons with disabilities in Europe, so this is a very large number of citizens".	00:00:43
00:01:50	SOUNDBITE (Italian), Roberta ANGELILLI, Vice-President of the European Parliament, (EPP, IT): "I would like to give you an example regarding accessibility. Only 5% of websites published in the 27 Member States is fully in line with accessibility standards. Public services, which are services for all are only accessible in an entirely partial way for people with disabilities."	00:00:32
00:02:22	SOUNDBITE (Italian), Roberta ANGELILLI, Vice-President of the European Parliament, (EPP, IT): "I just like to emphasize one of the problems that are one of the most important to me and that is the issue of different able children. There are about 50 million children in Europe who have specific educational needs, 50 million is a large number between the ages of 16 and 19 years old, 40% of them have left school. So this means that these children do not have proper access to school services, they leave school, they leave educational training and they are often destined to social marginalisation and unemployment. The most recent data suggest that the poverty rate for people with disability is above 70%, which is above the average for the citizens".	00:01:16
00:03:38	SOUNDBITE (English), Nikiforos DIAMANDOUROS, European Ombudsman (by video conference): "Individuals who do already work for EU institutions have turned to the Ombudsman alleging fail by the institutions to pay out allowances, to care for the children with disabilities, and they have turned to the Ombudsman complaining about the exclusion of their children from the European schools. Individuals who simply want to visit the EU institutions have complained to the Ombudsman alleging that the buildings are at time inaccessible and individuals who want to visit the EU institutions websites have complained that they are not inaccessible".	00:00:41
00:04:19	Cutaways (10 shots)	00:00:41
00:05:00	End	00:00:00

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