



## Launch of study findings:

***“Assessing the impact of European governments’  
austerity plans on the rights of people with  
disabilities”***

**Tuesday 6 November 2012, from 17:00 to 18:30**

European Parliament, Brussels

József Antall Building (JAN), Room: 6Q1

The study is an initiative of the EFC Consortium on Human Rights and Disability

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**ATLANTIC**  
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## BACKGROUND

The first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century has seen significant economic growth in Europe, which has resulted in improvements, albeit not optimal, to the living conditions and the inclusion in society of the 80 million people with disabilities and their families in Europe.

Now, with the seemingly unending economic crisis, Europe risks undoing this progress and weakening the economic, political and social structures that were built up during this prosperous decade.

With reduced spending on welfare and social services by some Member States, increasing numbers of people with disabilities are losing their jobs, income support and access to fundamental services and resources. This is a bleak situation that can only get bleaker as economic situation will naturally lead people with disabilities towards more poverty, social stigmatisation and marginalisation.

The economic crisis, as well as the political and social decisions taken as a result of it, is undermining the fundamental civil, political, social and economic rights of people with disabilities. This in turn is jeopardising the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disability (UNCPRD) in Europe, thus endangering the full and effective participation of people with disabilities in all aspects of life as equal citizens.

For these reasons, the European Foundation Centre's Consortium on Human Rights and Disability commissioned a study to gather evidence and data on how the crisis and ensuing cuts have impacted people with disabilities, as well as to analyse the specific impact on their rights (right to employment, independent living, education, etc.).

The Parliament event will bring together MEPs, policy experts and other relevant organisations to discuss the findings of the study. The discussions will underpin a common call for a European solution to the negative effects the crisis is having on citizens already experiencing social exclusion.

**Please register by 30 October 2012 at [sbalmas@efc.be](mailto:sbalmas@efc.be).**

***The hearing is open to the public.***

***If you do not have a European Parliament accreditation, please include your name, date of birth, and place of residence, ID/passport number, nationality and email so that we can arrange your access into the Parliament.***

# PROGRAMME

## WELCOME

17:00-17:10

**Rosa ESTARÀS FERRAGUT**  
Member of the European Parliament (MEP)

## SETTING THE SCENE

### ***THE IMPACT OF THE CRISIS ON "EUROPE 2020" PATH FOR INCLUSION***

17:10-17:20

**José LEANDRO**  
Principal Adviser on Socio-Economic Questions, European Council

17:20-17:30

**Miguel Ángel CABRA DE LUNA**  
Co-Chair of the European Consortium on Human Rights and Disability, EFC

## EXPERT PANEL

### ***FOCUS ON EUROPEAN DATA***

*The case of six European Countries  
(Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Portugal, Spain, and the UK)*

17:30-17:50

**Harald HAUBEN**  
Consultant, Bernard Brunhes International - BPI Group

## KEYNOTE

### ***EMERGING COST-EFFECTIVE INCLUSIVE SOLUTIONS***

17:50-18:00

**Yannis VARDAKASTANIS**  
President of the European Disability Forum

## KEYNOTE CONCLUSIONS

### **THE NEED FOR A CONCERTED RESPONSE**

18:00-18:10

**Member of the Cabinet (Name tbc)**  
EU Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

18:10-18:20

**Ádám KÓSA**  
MEP, President of the Disability Intergroup of the European Parliament

## DEBATE