

[FRA – FJ, A-1040 Vienna, Schwarzenbergplatz 11]

Mr Simon Walker
Advisor on human rights and disability
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United Nations Office at Geneva
CH – 1211 Geneva 10

sent by e-mail to: swalker@ohchr.org and registry@ohchr.org

cc: Mr Jan Jarab, Regional Representative, OHCHR, Regional Office for Europe

Vienna, 13 October 2011

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Consultation for a thematic Study on Participation of Persons with Disabilities in Political and Public Life

European Union Agency
for Fundamental Rights

Agence des droits fondamentaux
de l'Union Européenne

Agentur der Europäischen Union
für Grundrechte

Dear Mr Walker,

I am pleased to provide you with the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights' (FRA) contribution to the above-mentioned consultation.

FRA
Schwarzenbergplatz 11
1040 Vienna
Austria

In the FRA report on the right to political participation of persons with mental health problems and persons with intellectual disabilities (available at: http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/research/publications/publications_per_year/pub-vote-disability_en.htm), the FRA presents a comparative law analysis of the legal barriers faced by these individuals. The majority of EU Member States still have legal barriers preventing them from voting and being elected (see pp. 15 ff. of the report). The report also introduces the situation in EU Member States which do not impose any restriction on the right to vote (see pp.19 f. of the report). While the report does not address good practices as such, it refers to legal adaptations that facilitate the political participation of persons with disabilities (see pp. 21 f. of the report).

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The above-mentioned report (available in English, French and German in print and in 18 other language versions online) is the first publication in the context of the FRA disability project on the Fundamental rights of persons with intellectual disabilities and persons with mental health problems. For a detailed description of the project, see the project factsheet (available at: http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/research/publications/publications_per_year/pub-disability-overview_en.htm) as well as the project description at: http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/research/projects/proj_disability_en.htm).

The social component of the research project adopts a participatory research methodology. It is against this background that we published an easy to read version of the above-mentioned report, available at: http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/attachments/Report-on-right-to-vote-easy-to-read_EN.pdf

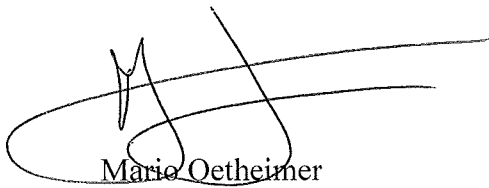
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Please note that in addition to the above-mentioned report, the FRA Annual report 2012 (to be published in June 2012) should provide additional information on the obstacles faced by persons with disabilities (taking a cross-impairment view) when exercising their voting rights. I will therefore be extremely interested in the study that OHCHR will publish in March 2012.

I hope that the information provided will be useful for the thematic study that you are preparing. We could send you print copies of the report for further distribution.

Should you need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



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