

Press Release

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47 member States

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France
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Germany
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Iceland
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Italy
Latvia
Liechtenstein
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Malta
Moldova
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Montenegro
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Norway
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Council of Europe adopts Recommendation on disability and ageing

Strasbourg, 10.07.2009 – The Committee of Ministers has just adopted a recommendation addressed to all 47 member states on "ageing and disability in the 21st century: sustainable frameworks to enable greater quality of life in an inclusive society".

Ageing people with disabilities and older people who develop disabilities as they age, wish to live their lives with the maximum degree of freedom and autonomy, in human and physical environments and with support services that facilitate rather than hinder this style of life.

The Council of Europe analysed the current situation in a number of European countries and produced a report and recommendations.

The report entitled "Enhancing rights and inclusion of ageing people with disabilities and older people with disabilities: a European perspective" looks into various frameworks affecting service provision and, hence, the quality of life: legal, financial, participatory, operational and individual frameworks.

The Recommendation, following the stocktaking of best practices in Europe, invites member states to take specific actions promoting autonomy and an independent and active life, enhancing access to and quality of services, including social services, and legal protection.

The Recommendation calls upon governments to ensure that services of both sufficient quality and quantity are provided. When several different support services are required (for example, health and social care) they should be carefully co-ordinated or integrated to meet effectively the needs of the person. Quality assurance and management systems and methods that take account of ethical considerations and professional standards are appropriate in this field and should be used in these services.

The Recommendation aims at giving member states additional insight into the specific measures to improve the quality of life of ageing people with disabilities in line with the Council of Europe Disability Action Plan 2006-2015¹.

[Full text of the Recommendation Rec/CM\(2009\)6](#)

¹ **Note to Editors:** [The Council of Europe "Action Plan](#) to promote the rights and full participation in society of people with disabilities : improving the quality of life of people with disabilities in Europe 2006-2015" was launched at the European Disability Conference in St Petersburg, Russia on 21- 22 September 2006. It is now available in 27 languages and in English and French Braille and easy-to-read formats.

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