



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Ádám KÓSA

Member of the European Parliament
European People's Party

Mr Giuseppe Petrucci

President
Italian National Association of the Deaf - ENS ONLUS
Via Gregorio VII 120
00165 Roma
Italy

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Dear Mr Giuseppe Petrucci,

I would like to thank you for your request. I am deeply sorry to read that despite of the ratification of "Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities", the Italian Sign Language has not officially recognized.

My basic goal is to generate full support of accessibility of the people with disabilities all over the world. In the European Union most Member States have sign languages mentioned in at least one law, except Italy and Luxembourg.

The report I wrote as rapporteur on mobility and inclusion of people with disabilities and the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020 (2010/2272(INI)) refers to (Article L) that there is a strong relationship between mobility, disability and social inclusion, with special regard to freedom and access to communication.

In connection to that I would like to also mention that having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 17 June 1988 on sign languages for deaf people and its second resolution of 7 December 1998 on sign languages, the European Parliament already called upon the Member states to abolish any remaining obstacles to the use of sign language.

Additional important argument is Articles 7, 55 and 96 of the Regulation (EU) no 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, which calls upon the Member States and the Commission to take appropriate steps to prevent any discrimination based disability during the preparation and implementation of programmes. In particular, accessibility for persons with disabilities shall be taken into account throughout the preparation and implementation of programmes as well.

Under the Articles 9 and 21 of UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) scrutinises the status of the sign language in each and every State Party's report, and the States Parties always agree to take appropriate measures to ensure to persons with disabilities' access as well as to ensure that persons with disabilities can exercise their right to freedom of expression and opinion, including the freedom to seek, receive and receive information and ideas on an equal basis with others and through all forms of communication of their choice.

I have always committed to improving the accessibility as well as the quality of life of the deaf people, and in this regard I would also like to assure that you all of my support to achieve the official recognition of the Italian Sign Language.

Yours sincerely,

Ádám KÓSA 
Member of the European Parliament