



Invitation to a Briefing for MEPs on the Effect of Austerity on Access to Independent Living in the EU

Organised by the European Network on Independent Living

Hosted by *MEP Marek Plura (EPP)*

We are pleased to invite you to a briefing for Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) on the Effect of Austerity on Access to Independent Living for disabled people, organised by the European Network on Independent Living (ENIL).

The aim of the briefing is to inform MEPs about the continued cuts to the support services and benefits for disabled people in the Member States, resulting in increasing poverty, isolation and institutionalization of disabled people. The briefing will encourage debate between EU citizens and MEPs about the actions needed to address this situation.

Venue: European Parliament, Brussels (Room TBC)

Date and time: September 26, 2017, 16:30 – 18:30

Programme:

Chair: John Evans OBE, Advisory Board, ENIL

- **16:30 – 16:40:** Welcome and opening by Marek Plura MEP and Kapka Panayotova, ENIL Chair
- **16:40 – 16:50:** Disabled People Against the Cuts - *Outcomes of the UN Inquiry into the Effect of Austerity on Disabled People's Rights in the UK (TBC)*
- **16:50 – 17:00:** Discussion
- **17:00 – 17:10:** Bengt Westerberg, former Minister for Social Affairs and Deputy Prime Minister of Sweden - *Erosion of the Right to Independent Living in Sweden*
- **17:10 – 17:20:** Discussion
- **17:20 – 17:50:** Testimonies from disabled people about the effect of cuts on the right to independent living

- **17:50 – 18:20:** Debate with MEPs on the role of the European Parliament in safeguarding human rights during austerity
- **18:20 – 18:30:** Conclusions by a representative of the Alliance Against Disability Cuts

To register, please write to: Frank Sioen, Advocacy Officer, frank.sioen@enil.eu by 8 September 2017.

Please note that, because of limited space, attendance is by invitation only.

About the European Network on Independent Living (ENIL)

The European Network on Independent Living (ENIL) is a Europe-wide network of disabled people, with members throughout Europe. ENIL is a forum for all disabled people, Independent Living organisations and their non-disabled allies on the issues of Independent Living. ENIL represents the disability movement for human rights and social inclusion based on solidarity, peer support, deinstitutionalisation, democracy, self-representation, cross disability and self-determination.

About the Alliance Against Disability Cuts (AADC)

ENIL launched the Alliance Against Disability Cuts (AADC) in 2011. AADC brings together representatives from different disabled people's organisations, including Inclusion Europe, Mental Health Europe, Autism Europe, the European Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry, Disabled People Against Cuts, the European Disability Forum and the European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities. Its objective is to collect evidence on the impact of the crisis on disabled people in Europe and to raise awareness about this issue at the EU level. AADC works towards the adoption of a resolution against disability cuts by the European Parliament.



Supported by the European Union