

Nicosia, 9 December 2016

## The European Commission invites you to “A day in the life of a disabled person” panel discussion

The European Commission will mark European Day of People with Disabilities with a panel discussion titled “A day in the life of a disabled person” on Friday, 6 January 2017 at Merit Hotel, Nicosia from 10:30 to 13:00. The event is organised by the EU Infopoint in partnership with the Cyprus Hearing and Speech Impaired Foundation, LTB Dance School for Disabled Children, Social Services Department, and the Turkish Cypriot Association of Orthopaedic Disability. The focus will be on social inclusion for people with disabilities.

The aim of the event is to improve awareness about the importance of social inclusion for disabled individuals. Topics will cover the EU policy on people with disabilities, best practices from the EU, implementations in the Turkish Cypriot community, testimonials from people living with a disability, and recommendations for the future.

To mark the European Day of People with Disabilities, the EU Infopoint also organized two “Introduction to Sign Language” seminars that was held in Nicosia and Kyrenia in December 2016.

The EU Disability Strategy 2010 – 2020 aims to break down the barriers that prevent persons with disabilities from participating in society on an equal basis. The strategy outlines how the EU and national governments can empower people with disabilities so they can enjoy their rights.

### **Background:**

One in six people in the European Union – around 80 million – have a disability that ranges from mild to severe. Over one third of people aged over 75 have disabilities that restrict them to some extent. These numbers are set to rise as the EU population grows progressively older. Most of these people are all too often prevented from fully participating in society and the economy because of physical or other barriers, as well as discrimination.

The [EU Charter of Fundamental Rights](#) says that the “Union recognises and respects the right of persons with disabilities to benefit from measures designed to ensure their independence, social and occupational integration and participation in the life of the community.” In addition, the EU and all its 28 Member States have already committed to creating a barrier-free Europe by signing the United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (UNCRPD).

'Accessibility' means that people with disabilities have access, on an equal basis with others, to the physical environment, transportation, information and communications technologies and systems, and other facilities and services.

Interested individuals can get more information on these events on the EU Infopoint Facebook page [f/abbilgi](#) or by contacting the EU Infopoint: [info@abbilgi.eu](mailto:info@abbilgi.eu), 228 2577 and 11A Hasene Ilgaz Sokak, Köşklüçiftlik Nicosia.

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