

WRITTEN DECLARATION

for entry in the register

pursuant to Rule 51 of the Rules of Procedure

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on the rights of deafblind people

Adopted by European Parliament 1 April 2004

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 51 of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to Article 13 of the Treaty on European Union and the principle of human dignity,
 - A. whereas deafblindness is a distinct disability that is a combination of both sight *and* hearing impairments, which results in difficulties having access to information, communication and mobility,
 - B. whereas there are about 150 000 people in the European Union who are deafblind,
 - C. whereas some of these people are completely deaf and blind, but most have some remaining use of one or both senses,
 - D. whereas, having a distinct disability, deafblind people need specific support provided by people with specialist knowledge,
 - 1. Calls on the institutions of the European Union and the Member States to recognise and implement the rights of people who are deafblind;
 - 2. Declares that deafblind people should have the same rights as are enjoyed by all EU citizens; these should be enforced by appropriate legislation in each Member State and should include:

- the right to participate in the democratic life of the European Union;
 - the right to work and access training, with appropriate lighting, contrast and adaptations;
 - the right to person-centred health and social care;
 - the right to lifelong learning;
 - the right to receive one-to-one support where appropriate from communicator-guides, deafblind interpreters and/or intervenors;
3. Instructs its President to forward this declaration to the Commission, the Council, and the governments of the Member States.