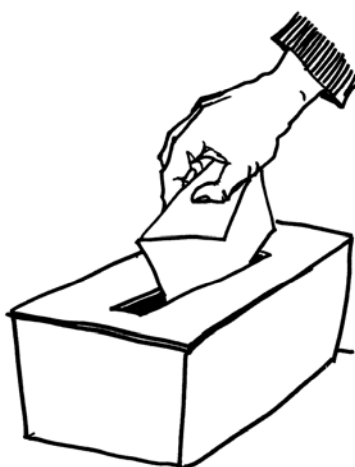


# European Elections 2009



The next European elections will be in June 2009.  
They are important for everybody in Europe.  
We will elect the people  
who will speak for us at European level.  
These people are called  
“Members of the European Parliament”.  
This leaflet gives you important information  
about these elections.



There are many people with disabilities in Europe.  
Many will participate at the European elections.

We ask the candidates to respect our demands  
when they have been elected  
as Members of the European Parliament.



Here are our 10 most important demands.

- 1. Elections must be fully accessible.  
And it must be possible for us to be candidate.**
- 2. The European Parliament  
must be fully accessible.**
- 3. The UN Convention on the Rights  
of Persons with Disabilities  
must become law in all countries.**
- 4. Europe must have clear ideas  
on what it will do to help disabled people.**
- 5. We must be allowed to say what we think  
and we must be taken into account.**
- 6. Education must be fully accessible for all of us.**
- 7. We must have equal treatment  
and equal access to employment.**
- 8. Europe must fight against poverty  
of disabled people.**
- 9. We want to live included in the community  
and to make our own choices**
- 10. We must get full accessibility  
to transport, public places and information.**

For more information, please check the website  
[www.disabilityvotescount.eu](http://www.disabilityvotescount.eu)

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## What is the European Parliament?

The European Parliament decides about laws for all the countries in the European Union.

The European Parliament passes laws about:

- equal rights and non-discrimination
- education and training
- going to work in another country
- the European countryside
- culture
- protection of health
- protection of consumers
- Research



The European Parliament decides how the money of the European Union is spent.



If a European law says one thing and the law in your country says another thing, then the European law must be followed.

Each country is represented in the European Parliament.

A person who speaks up for a country is called a Member of the European Parliament.

We also call them « MEP » to make it shorter.



## What is an election?

An election is when you vote to choose the best person who will speak for you.

You can decide to vote for a person if you agree with his or her ideas.

You vote for someone, if you think that he or she would do a good job of listening to the people in your area.



You can decide to vote for a person from a political party if you agree with the party's views.

To know about the political party's views for the 2009 European elections, you can check the website [www.myopinionmyvote.eu](http://www.myopinionmyvote.eu)

## The European Elections

European elections happen every 5 years.

In the United Kingdom,

the next European elections will be on 4 June 2009

In Ireland, the European elections will be on 5 June 2009.

You can vote for the MEPs of your country.



Find out which candidate supports disabled people.

Let the candidates know if you want anything about European laws to change.

Remember that MEPs can only sort out problems that affect everyone in the European Union.

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## Who can vote?

People can vote when they are aged 18 or over.

If you have the right to vote, nobody can tell you who to vote for.

Just before elections, people who can vote receive an Election Card. The Election Card will tell you where the polling place is.



The polling place is where you can vote.

Sometimes people with intellectual disability do not have the right to vote.

People with intellectual disability who are under the status of legal incapacitation often do not have the right to vote.

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## How to vote?

On Election Day, you go to the Polling place.  
You must have your Election Card with you.

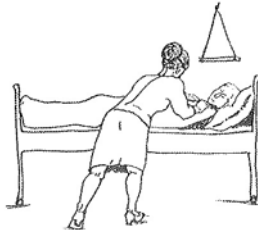
A person will mark your name off on a list.  
This mark will show that you have voted.

He or she will give you a list of all the names  
of the people that you can vote for.  
You will have to choose to vote for  
someone on this list.

Sometimes the list is on a computer.  
You have to mark a cross against  
the person you want to vote for.



Remember that your vote is secret.  
Nobody will know who you vote for.  
Nobody can tell you who to vote for.



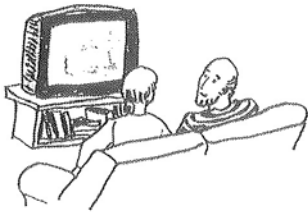
Sometimes people cannot go to  
the polling places on  
Election Day because they are ill or  
away from home.  
These people can apply for  
an absent vote.

Ask your support person what you have to do  
if you want to apply for absent vote.

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## After the European Elections

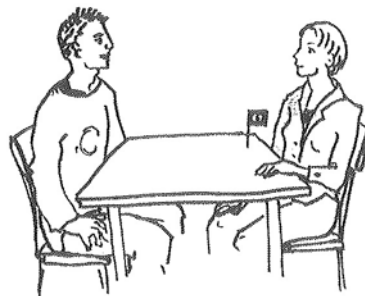
After the polling places close,  
all the votes are counted.  
The candidate who has received  
the highest rate of votes  
wins the elections.



You can watch this on television.  
You can find out the winners from  
the television and  
from the newspapers.

After the elections, do not forget your MEP.  
The MEP who has won the elections  
can help you even if  
you did not vote for this MEP.  
The MEP can help you and  
speak up for you.

Let him or her know if  
you want anything about  
European laws to change.



This leaflet was prepared by Inclusion Europe



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