

**Manuscript**  
**EU and handicapped**  
**BRT, Germany**

Presenter: In Germany live more than 6.5 million disabled people. This means that almost one in ten is disabled. Still not all public buildings are properly equipped for disabled people. This is even worse in Eastern Europe, where they do not have enough money for that. Now the other countries are expected to help.

Crew:

Redaktion: Peter Sauer / Martin Hähnlein

Kamera: Andreas Klotz / Harald Märtens

Schnitt: Martina Wölfert / Ursula Engel

Duration: 3'28

## **Translation**

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Aufsager (00:02:00 – 00:02:18):

Insert: 00:02:02 – 00:02:12 (Jürgen Brzoska)

**Question** (works in welfare and social work):

Free welfare depends on public funds. Do we have to expect that subsidies that Germany receives at the moment will go to the new member states from Eastern Europe?

**Lissy Gröner (00:0:2:39 – 00:03:18):**

I trust that this will not be the case, since the European Union wants to promote things not hinder them. There are clear regulations that make sure that one country does not have to finance another country. I am convinced that we will learn from each other and that we should follow the best examples. We have to improve the situation for our disabled fellow citizens, which make up about a tenth of our population, by providing them with the best possible help from the national countries.

**Question:** I would like to know when the European Union will have common standards for disabled people.

**Lissy Gröner (00:03:28 – 00:04:25)**

Insert: 00:03:30 – 00:03:40 (Lissy Gröner, SPD, Member of the European Parliament)

The year 2003 was the “Year of Disabled People” in Europe, which meant a lot of discussions about this topic. For this occasion we had created a big European forum in Brussels, where disabled people could voice their opinion. They made a lot of suggestions to improve the conditions for them, from simplifying public transport to rules about financial relief for disabled people. It goes without saying that we have the power to initiate them. At the moment the member countries still have the last say, however, wide-scale discussions in Europe already help a lot. We have to learn from each other and find the “best practice”.

Question (00:04:25 – 00:04:35):

Money plays a role when it comes to the creation of an infrastructure that is equipped for disabled people. What do you think, how long will it take until they will be pretty much the same in Europe?

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**Lissy Gröner: (00:04:36 – 00:05:28)**

Insert: 00:04:38 – 00:04:48 (Lissy Gröner, SPD, Member of the European Parliament)

We should follow the example of Scandinavia; other countries are far ahead of us in this respect. Especially when it comes to integration measures on the labour market, kindergartens as well as education, Germany has a lot of catching up to do. Germany is not top of the league in this respect and therefore we hope that Europe will encourage Germany to do more for integrating disabled people in everyday life. There are such a lot of physical and psychological disabilities that underpin the diversity of the people of the European Union and show that nobody should be left out.

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