Germany - reply to the UN Human Rights Council

On behalf of the German CRPD-Alliance we welcome that Germany has accepted a total of six recommendations concerning the UN CRPD, especially the implementation of "reasonable accommodation" (Recommendation of Spain) into the German Law and to "extend legal requirements of barrier-free access for private entities that provide goods and services to the public" (Recommendation of the United States of America).

Germany has indeed accepted these recommendations in its written reply, but now it is important that these words become reality! It is not enough, that the government refers to the instrument of target agreements in the Law of Equality of Opportunity for the Disabled (BGG). The German government should study the outcome of an individual complaint, issued by the CRPD Committee on 23 - April 2013. This was a successful complaint of disables Persons from Hungary (Nyusti & Takàcs vs Hungary; CRPD/C/D/1/2010) determined to not barrier-free ATMs. It is therefore high time, that private entities in Germany that offer facilities and services which are open or provided to the public take into account all aspects of accessibility for persons with disabilities. This has to be guaranteed by German BGG and is indeed what the parallel report of the German Civil Society, the CRPD-Alliance points out, too.

Thank you very much!

Ellen Walker, European Disability Forum on behalf of the German CRDP Alliance

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