**Duty to provide assistance**

Indicators on political participation

of persons with disabilities

2014

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**Is there a legal duty to provide assistance for persons with disabilities during voting?**

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| **EUMS** | **Source and supporting information** |
| AT | On 13 June 2013 the National Assembly decided on an amendment of the Election to the Parliament Act (*Nationalratswahlordnung, NRWO,* §79 (2)) as well as the Election to the European Parliament Act (*Europawahlordnung,* EuWO,§63 (2)). This amendment serves the facilitation of giving a preferential vote *(Vorzugsstimme)* for visually strongly impaired or blind persons through the possibility to enter the preferential vote with the number of the candidate on candidates list instead of the candidate’s full name.[[1]](#footnote-1)  Absentee ballots and visiting electoral commissions (“fliegende Wahlkommissionen”) facilitate voting especially for persons with physical impairment (§38 (2) National Assembly Election Order (*Nationalratswahlordnung, NRWO*). For persons with visual impairment special templates and guiding systems have to be provided.  In Austria, the possibility of assistance in voting booths is limited to people who have physical or sensory impairments. This limitation has attracted criticism in Austria[[2]](#footnote-2) because it does not permit people with intellectual disabilities to have any assistance inside the voting booth. |
| BE | The legislation provides for some accommodation for persons with disabilities to vote at the municipal polling stations. (Article 143 of the Electoral Code).[[3]](#footnote-3) There are no polling stations in institutions or mobile polling stations in Belgium.  On the 5th of July 2013, the Council of Ministers approved a proposal for a law amending the legislation on accessibility to federal elections for persons with a disability. Voters with a disability will have the option to be accompanied by a person of their choice, with the authorization of the president of the polling station[[4]](#footnote-4).  The Flemish Government adopted two Ministerial Decrees[[5]](#footnote-5) concerning the arrangement of voting booths and voting material, specifying inter alia that:   * A magnifying glass has to be available in every voting bureau; * The space underneath the voting desk must stay free (easy access for wheelchairs) * Level differences on a ground floor need to have an oblique plane of maximum 6% made out of slip material to guarantee easy access for everyone; * In every building where people can vote, the municipal puts at least one special voting booth at the disposal of persons with disabilities. These voting booths are placed close to the voting rooms and need to have a chair near the voting booth. Clear signalization from the entrance of the voting bureau to the special voting booth is required. The voting booth needs to have a diameter of 1,5 m, a desk at 80 cm high, 1m wide and 60 cm deep; * Signalization has to be clearly visible with big letters, enough space between letters and easy to read. * Disabled people who cannot, because of their disability, step into the voting booth or need help during the voting process, can be guided and assisted in the voting booth by a person of their choice.   The Flemish minister of education, training, youth and equality wrote a letter on the 30th of June 2012 directed to all municipals concerning the accessibility of voting bureaus and voting booths for handicapped people, asking them to make an extra effort to encourage and help disabled people to vote autonomously.[[6]](#footnote-6)  The Minister President of Brussels, Charles Piqué sent out a circular[[7]](#footnote-7) to all municipalities concerning the accessibility of voting bureaus for disabled people.  Article 18 of the ordinance of the 12th of July 2012 concerning the organization of electronic votes with a printed copy as proof for the municipal elections, holds that whenever a voter experiences difficulties when voting, he/she can ask help from the president of the voting bureau.[[8]](#footnote-8)  The Walloon Decree of 22 June 2006 on the minimum norms of accessibility [[9]](#footnote-9) provides detailed guidelines which measures to ensure more accessible sites for the elections. The Walloon Code of local democracy and decentralisation [[10]](#footnote-10) provides addition requirements such as that a voting forms reproduced at 150% must be available to voters upon request and a sample of the instructions published in a large font should also be available (Article L4143-4).[[11]](#footnote-11) |
| BG | Persons with disabilities who are not able to cast their votes in a polling station, are provided with the possibility to explicitly fill in an application in 30 days before election day for voting with a mobile polling box at home (Article 176 of the EC).  The Electoral Code also provides the possibility to create polling stations in homes for people with disabilities, medical and health facilities, nursing homes and others. (Art. 72, para 6, 7 and 8 of the EC).  It provides as well in the creation of a specialized polling station for people with disabilities of the musculoskeletal system or vision on the ground floor of buildings when polling stations are situated on a second or upper floor (Art. 73 of the EC). There is also a provision regarding the voting by independent accompanying person (companion) for people with disabilities of the musculoskeletal system or vision (Article 204 of the EC).  No obligation exists regarding the provision of newsletters or templates of Braille letter or newsletters with enlarged font, nor is there a provision regarding voting by mail, in advance or otherwise. |
| CY | Disabled voters may ask the presiding officer to assist him/her in the exercise of his right to vote, according his will. Such a request should be made in the presence of at least one other person[[12]](#footnote-12).  In Cyprus, assistance in the voting booth is available to people with physical, visual and intellectual disabilities. |
| CZ | For people with sensory impairments, no easy-to-read ballot papers or ballot papers in Braille are available. However, people with sensory or physical impairments are allowed to have an assistant who helps them with their voting. To ensure the autonomy of the election process, the assistant must not be a member of the electoral committee. This means that the sensory impaired voter has to ask another voter in the election room to help her/him casting her/his vote or she/he needs to bring an assistant.  In the Czech Republic, assistance in the voting booth is available to people with physical, visual and intellectual disabilities. |
| DE | According to Section 57 of the Federal Election Regulation (*Bundeswahlordnung*) voters who cannot read or who are unable to mark, fold or insert the ballot paper due to physical impairments may request support of an assisting person. This person can assist the supported person also in the polling booth and is bound to secrecy.  Persons who are blind or visually impaired can use a stencil to mark their ballot paper. Persons with physical or sensory impairments may also request – in accordance with Sections 27 respectively 66 of the Federal Election Regulation – support of assisting persons if they apply for ballot papers or if they wish to vote by mail. |
| DK | Assistance in the voting process can be provided if necessary due to for instance a physical disability. Assistance is provided by two returning officers or others assisting in carrying out the polling. If requested by the voter, one of them can be replaced by someone chosen by the voter himself. The voting procedure may be amended where necessary. For instance, it may be necessary to vote right outside the polling station. Assistance cannot be provided by a candidate in the municipality or the region or the large constituency concerned. Furthermore, assistance in ticking off the voting paper can only be provided, if the voter unequivocally expresses who he wants to vote for. This is regulated by section 49 of the Act nr. 126 on the European Parliament Elections, section 49 of the Act nr. 128 on the Danish Parliament Elections and section 55 of the Act nr. 127 on Municipal and Regional Elections. |
| EE | The Local Government Council Election Act (*Kohaliku omavalitsuse volikogu valimise seadus*) includes only two provisions.[[13]](#footnote-13) If the person with disabilities is not able to fill in the ballot paper himself/herself then they can ask another voter to do that for them in their presence (§45(5)). The other voter cannot be a candidate in the same election district. Additionally, the ballot could also be deposited by another voter upon the request of the person with disabilities (§45(8)). Similar provisions can be found in the European Parliament Election Act *(Euroopa Parlamendi valimise seadus)*.[[14]](#footnote-14) |
| EL | According to article 83 par 3 Decree 96/2007 and article 83 par 3 of the Presidential Decree 26/2012, *“Voters who are physically incapable, (to follow the procedure of par. 2) have the right to be addressed to the representative of the judicial authority or a member of the Election Committee who are obliged to help them*”.[[15]](#footnote-15)  These provisions are substantiated by different circulars, such as for example:  -Circular No. 41 on “Facilities for Voting by People with Disabilities in the General Elections of 4 October 2009”[[16]](#footnote-16) provides further guidance and clarification on facilitating the exercise of voting rights for disabled people. According to the circular, the polling station (PS) chairperson is required to take necessary measures for a disabled person to exercise voting rights and to ensure the secrecy and integrity of the voting process. The circular leaves it to the discretion of the PS chairperson to find appropriate solutions to achieve these goals. Such measures may include delivery of voting materials (including ballot papers) to a PS area accessible to a disabled voter or just outside the polling station.  -Circular No 20, of the 3d of September 2010 entitled “Facilitation of voters with disabilities during the Municipal and Regional election of 7th and the second round of 14th November 2010”, states that assistance includes entering the voting booth with the person and bringing election materials outside the polling station when it is inaccessible.[[17]](#footnote-17)  -Circular (Prot. No. 52671) of the 15th of September 2010 was addressed to the prefectures of the country regarding the preparation for the regional and municipal elections. In the circular, it was stressed that: “*As in the past there have been complaints from people with disabilities, please make every effort to ensure that selected dwellings are on the ground floor or can be configured to facilitate these people to exercise their right to vote*.”  -Circular no 20 of the Minister of Interior[[18]](#footnote-18), issued on 19 April 2012 entitled “Facilities for the exercise of voting rights of citizens with disabilities in the general elections of 6 May 2012”*,* provides that persons with disabilities vote with priority. It also states that for persons using wheelchairs or other similar equipment, in cases where there are difficulties due to the absence of polling shops, ramps, elevators or other means to ensure access to the voting hall, the representative of the judiciary is obliged to ensure the exercise of the voting right of the person by any means.  For this purpose, the representative of the judiciary may request the assistance of members of the Election committee, the guard of the store or even ordinary voters to facilitate the voting procedure for the person. The representative may also interrupt the voting procedure, while ensuring the secrecy of voting and smooth function, undertaken personally or with the possible assistance of a member of the Election Committee, to deliver the voter a file stamped and initialled, and full series of ballots, so the person can retire in an appropriate, accessible place in order to vote. In any case, according to the last paragraph of the Circular, it is left to the discretion of the judiciary representative to seek other solutions sufficient to ensure the uninterrupted exercise of persons with disabilities to vote.  The election law does not allow persons with disabilities to receive assistance from a person of their choice while casting their ballots. Following OSCE and ODIGR election monitoring reports of the early parliamentary elections of the 6th of May 2012,”i*n light of Greece's recent ratification of the UNCRPD and in order to ensure the secrecy of the vote, amendments should be introduced to the current legislation to require that polling stations be accessible to voters with disabilities and to allow such voters to select assistance providers of their choice.”[[19]](#footnote-19)* |
| ES | The Regulation on the basic conditions for the participation of persons with disabilities in political life and electoral processes (Royal Decree 422/2011 of 25 March),[[20]](#footnote-20) organizes in general terms the free transport of voters who need assistance to get to, and access the polling station. This is organised by the State´s General Administration. |
| FI | Sections 58 and 73 of the Election Act 1998 state that a person whose ability to make a mark on the ballot paper is essentially weakened may use the help of an assistant of his or her choice with the exception of a person who stands as a candidate for the elections. It requires that each polling station has a dedicated election assistant who wears distinctive marks or signs and is nominated by the Election Committee who, at the request of the voter, will assist him or her in marking the ballot paper. This option is always available if the voter does not wish to be assisted in the voting by his or her personal assistant. Furthermore, transportation costs of disabled voters to and from polling stations can be covered by the state.  The Government has made a proposal to the parliament (Government Proposal 8/2010 of 5 March 2010) for amendments to the Election Act establishing that a family member who is a dedicated assistant to a person entitled to vote at home, would also be allowed to vote at home.  Further information is available in the reports of the OSCE regarding the parliamentary elections of the 17th of April 2011[[21]](#footnote-21) and the presidential election of the 22nd of January 2012[[22]](#footnote-22). |
| FR |  |
| HR | To specify the rules and procedure related to provisions regulating voting of persons with disability (and some other categories of voters, such as illiterate voters and voters who cannot access the polling place), the National Elections Committee (*Državno izborno povjerenstvo*) issues mandatory instructions for local committees. The instructions, issued for all elections, specify that a voter who is not able to fill the ballot by him/herself due to physical impairment or illiteracy can be accompanied by a person of trust.  In the 2010 act regulating European Parliament elections[[23]](#footnote-23), a possibility to vote using ballots in Braille had been introduced. This is upon request to the local election committee up to 30 days prior to election day. However, the Amendments to the Act provided that voting material in Braille would not be available during 2013 elections.[[24]](#footnote-24) In preparation for the 2014 European Parliament elections, the law was amended again, and the Proposal of the Act on Amendments to the Act on the Elections of Representatives from the Republic of Croatia to the European Parliament (*Prijedlog zakona o izmjenama i dopunama* *Zakona o izborima zastupnika iz Republike Hrvatske u Europski parlament*) has been adopted by the Parliament on the 22nd of November 2013.[[25]](#footnote-25)  According to article 10 of the proposal, blind persons have two options: to cast a vote via an accompanying person or to vote independently using a special matrix. Specifically, a ballot in Braille is posted in a polling station, and is used in conjunction with a stencil. This stencil is placed on top of a ‘regular’ ballot and allows voters to identify their voting choice by counting the number of holes. |
| HU | According to the current regulation section 68 (2) of the Election Procedure Act ‘Voters who cannot read, or are prevented from voting by other physical handicap or any other cause, may use the assistance of another voter, for lack of same, the joint assistance of two members of the ballot counting committee.’ |
| IE | In Ireland,[[26]](#footnote-26) assistance in the voting booth is available to people with physical, visual and intellectual disabilities. |
| IT | Italian legislation ensures that voters who are "physically impaired” or "blind, hand amputee” or with “another impairment of comparable seriousness"[[27]](#footnote-27) can exercise their right to vote with the help of a member of their family or of another voter they can voluntarily choose, provided he/she is registered in an electoral roll of any Italian city.  Until 2010, only people who were "blind, amputees of the hands, with paralysis or other impediment of comparable gravity" could exercise their right to vote with the help of an assistant.[[28]](#footnote-28) Law 107/2010[[29]](#footnote-29) also recognised deaf-blindness as a specific form of disability, thus extending the possibility of being assisted in the ballot to deaf-blind persons.  If a disability is not noticeable or not known by the chairman of the polling station, the disabled person is required to exhibit a specific document issued by doctors appointed by the Local Health Authority (ASL) according to the national law on the exercise of the right to vote by people with disabilities[[30]](#footnote-30).  This document shall be issued to the person concerned immediately, free of charge and free of any rights or application of brands. In case of blindness, the voter can prove his disability by exhibiting the so called "*Libretto della pensione* - Pension book" which attests the blindness. |
| LT | In Lithuania, the possibility of assistance in voting booths is limited to people who have physical or sensory impairments.  On 5 December 2012, the CEC issued a decision stating that polling stations shall be situated in buildings which have no barriers in the built environment, addressing the needs of voters with physical disabilities, visual disabilities and elderly persons. Additionally, the commissions of the electoral constituencies no later than 45 days before the election day inform voters about locations of polling stations, including information about those accessible to persons with the physical or visual disabilities and elderly persons. |
| LU | According to art. 79 of the Electoral Act citizens with visual impairment and physically disabled citizens are authorised to vote with a guide. According to the same article, a modification has been introduced in 2004 (Act of 10 February 2004) following which the guide does not necessarily need to be eligible to vote. Furthermore, the guide cannot be a candidate for elections or hold a mandate in a European, municipal and national elective office, including parents, family members and second degree relatives of these elected persons or candidates. The guide should be able to read and write. |
| LV | Current Latvian legislation does not provide for ballot templates and other measures which could enable the visually impaired, or any disabled person, to cast ballots secretly and independently. The Code of Good Practice in Electoral Matters on the Participation of People with Disabilities in Elections stipulates that “voting procedures and facilities should be accessible to people with disabilities so that they are able to exercise their democratic rights, and allow, where necessary, the provision of assistance in voting, with respect to the principle that voting must be individual.”  For further information, see the election monitoring report of the OSCE/ODIHR regarding the early Parliamentary elections o the 17th of September 2011.[[31]](#footnote-31) |
| MT | Since the adoption of the Equal Opportunities Act (2000), voting stations are required to be physically accessible to all, including people with disability. Moreover, support staff at polling stations is obliged to offer people with disability assistance in getting to the appropriate venue and to cast their vote if required. The provision has made it possible for many people with physical disability to vote on an equal basis with others. |
| NL | Only people with physical disabilities can be accompanied when they vote. People with mental disabilities have to vote themselves. |
| PL | A disabled voter may request for help of other person, excluding members of the electoral commission and the persons of trust.  Further regulations with regard to adapt the organisation of elections to the needs of people with different disabilities are provided in the Act of 27 May 2011 on the **amendments to the Election Code Law** and to the Act implementing the Election Code Law. The Act provides, *inter alia,* for:   * voting using overlays to vote cards prepared in Braille; the overlay model will be defined by the National Electoral Commission. |
| PT | In Portugal,[[32]](#footnote-32) assistance in the voting booth is available to people with physical, visual and intellectual disabilities. |
| RO | A draft Electoral Code of the the Permanent Electoral Authority (*Autoritatea Electoral Permanentă)*  according to the DPPD[[33]](#footnote-33) is currently in public consulation,which includes provisions which would facilitate the participation of persons with a disability in the voting process.[[34]](#footnote-34)  Art.100 (1-4) stipulate that, twenty days before the election, persons with visual impairments, can file written requests to vote with the aid of a chosen persons.  Persons who, for valid reasons (illiteracy not being one of them) cannot vote, shall have the possibility to be accompanied inside the voting booth by a person of their choosing, except the electoral staff. Five days after the start of the electoral campaign, the AEP is required to set up special voting procedures for persons with visual impairments, and prepare the model of the voting bulletin. |
| SE | In Sweden,[[35]](#footnote-35) assistance in the voting booth is available to people with physical, visual and intellectual disabilities.The Government assigned a parliamentary committee in 2010 to review parts of the electoral system. In its final report "E-voting and other electoral issues” (*E-röstning och andra valfrågor*) [[36]](#footnote-36), the committee proposed thatthat a provision in the Election Act *(Vallagen*) should be added to make clear that voters who due to disabilities cannot themselves personally arrange their votes, shall upon request be given assistance not only by voting clerks, but also by an individual who can help them at the polling station.[[37]](#footnote-37) |
| SI | In Slovenia,[[38]](#footnote-38) assistance in the voting booth is available to people with physical, visual and intellectual disabilities.  In some elections and referendums, special tactile ballot templates are used for blind voters. They are not required by law and are therefore not used in every election. |
| SK | Those handicapped citizens who have legal capacity but are unable to fill in their ballot on account of their disability or their inability to read or write have the right to be accompanied to the polling booth by another voter to fill in the ballot in compliance with their instructions, provided it is not a member of the local electoral commission. |
| UK | A new fact sheet entitled ‘Disabled People’s Voting Rights’ was issued by the UK Electoral Commission in April 2011. [[39]](#footnote-39)Disabled voters “may request the assistance of the Presiding Officer to mark the ballot paper for them” or “they can bring someone with them to help them vote (this person must be an immediate family member over 18 years old or a qualified elector)”. A tactile voting device “is fixed on to the ballot paper so visually impaired people or those with limited dexterity can mark their ballot paper in secret.”[[40]](#footnote-40) In addition, “a large-print version of the ballot paper should be clearly displayed inside the polling station and a copy can be given to voters to take with them into the polling booth;”[[41]](#footnote-41) although a voter cannot vote on the large-print version, “it can be used for reference.” |

1. Austria, Parliament (Parlament) (2013), Resolution of the National Assembly of 13 June 2013 (*Beschluss des Nationalrats vom 13. Juni 2013*), available at: <www.parlament.gv.at/PAKT/VHG/XXIV/BNR/BNR_00767/fname_310150.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Lebenshilfe 2013 [[NB need to check full reference in Austria’s report. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Belgium, Article 143 of the Electoral Code (*Le Code électoral; Algemeen Kieswetboek*). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Belgium, Residence Palace International press Centre (2013), ‘Diverse bepalingen inzake verkiezingen’, press release 5 July 2013, available at: [www.presscenter.org/nl/pressrelease/20130705/diverse-bepalingen-inzake-verkiezingen](http://www.presscenter.org/nl/pressrelease/20130705/diverse-bepalingen-inzake-verkiezingen) [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Belgium, Ministerial Decree concerning the determination of the arrangement of voting booths and of the voting materials for voting bureaus in municipals where is voted by pencil and paper (*Ministerieel besluit houdende de vaststelling van de inrichting van de stemlokalen en van het kiesmaterieel voor de stembureaus in de gemeenten waar met potlood en papier wordt gestemd),* 6 July 2012. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Belgium, Flemish Minister of education, formation, youth, equality and Brussels (*Vlaamse Minister voor onderwijs, vorming, jeugd, gelijke kansen en Brussel)* (2012), ‘Briefbetreffende de toegankelijkheid gemeenteraadsverkiezingen 2012’, available at: http://abb.vlaanderenkiest.be/sites/default/files/2012%20GK%20BR017%20toegankelijkheid%20gemeenteraadsverkiezingen.pdf. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Belgium, Brussels Capital Region, Circular concerning recommendations to facilitate the accessibility of voting bureaus for disabled people and to assist them (*Omzendbrief betreffende aanbevelingen om de toegang van personen met beperkte mobiliteit (PBM) tot de stembureaus te vergemakkelijken en om hun hiervoor de nodige bijstand te verlenen*), 6 August 2012, *Belgian Official Journal* 27 August 2012, p. 509756. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Belgium, Brussels Capital Region, Ordinance concerning the organisation of the electronic voting for the municipal elections (*Ordonnantie houdende de organisatie van de elektronische stemming voor de gemeenteraadsverkiezingen*), 12 July 2012, *Belgian Official Journal* 16 July 2012, p. 38923. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Belgium, Walloon Decree of 22 June 2006 on the minimum norms of accessibility ([*Arrêté du Gouvernement wallon déterminant les normes minimales d’accessibilité pour l’assistance aux électeurs dans le choix des centres et locaux de vote en vue des élections communales, provinciales et de secteurs*](http://elections2012.wallonie.be/docs/arrete_22_juin_accessibilite_fr.pdf)). [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. See footnote 5. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. Belgium, Walloon Decree of 22 June 2006 on the minimum norms of accessibility (*Arrêté du Gouvernement wallon du 22 juin 2006 déterminant les normes minimales d'accessibilité pour l'assistance aux électeurs dans le choix des centres et locaux de vote en vue des élections communales, provinciales et de secteurs*), available at footnote 31 and Article L4143-4 of the Walloon Code of local democracy and decentralisation (*Code de la démocratie locale et de la décentralisation*), available at footnote 5. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. OSCE/ODIHR election monitoring reports, P. 6, <http://www.osce.org/odihr/elections/82242>. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. Estonia, Local Government Council Election Act (Kohaliku omavalitsuse volikogu valimise seadus), 27 March 2002. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. Estonia, European Parliament Election Act (*Euroopa Parlamendi valimise seadus*), 18 December 2012. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. A chairperson of a polling station is also commonly known as a “judicial representative” in Greece. [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. Issued on 7 September 2009. [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. See article 83 par. 3 of PD 96/2007 and Ministry of Interior, Circular No 20, 03.09.2010 entitled “Facilitation of voters with disabilities during the Municipal and Regional election of 7th and the second round of 14th November 2010”. This is a standard procedure which is also followed in the case of elderly people who may not enter the polling station. [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. Greece, Ministry of Interior, *(Υπουργείο Εσωτερικών*), Circular no 20/19.04.2012, ref no 15315/19/04.2012 (*Διευκολύνσεις για την άσκηση του εκλογικού δικαιώματος από πολίτες με αναπηρίες κατά τις γενικές βουλευτικές εκλογές της 6ης Μαϊου 2012)*, available at: <http://www.ypes.gr/UserFiles/f0ff9297-f516-40ff-a70e-eca84e2ec9b9/egk20_19042012.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. <http://www.osce.org/odihr/92460> [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. Royal Decree 422/2011, of 25 March, approving the Regulation on the basic conditions for the participation of persons with disabilities in political life and electoral processes [*Real Decreto 422/2011, de 25 de marzo, por el que se aprueba el Reglamento sobre las condiciones básicas para la participación de las personas con discapacidad en la vida política y en los procesos electorales*]. Consolidated version in Spanish: [www.boe.es/buscar/pdf/2011/BOE-A-2011-5714-consolidado.pdf](http://www.boe.es/buscar/pdf/2011/BOE-A-2011-5714-consolidado.pdf) (accessed on 10/07/2013). [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
21. <http://www.osce.org/odihr/81121> [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
22. <http://www.osce.org/odihr/elections/85410>, p. 6. [↑](#footnote-ref-22)
23. Croatia, Act on the Elections of Representatives from the Republic of Croatia to the European Parliament (*Zakon o izborima zastupnika iz Republike Hrvatske u Europski parlament*) (2010) Official Gazette (*Narodne novine*) Nos. 92/10 and No. 23/13. Available at: <http://narodne-novine.nn.hr/clanci/sluzbeni/2010_07_92_2591.html> and <http://narodne-novine.nn.hr/clanci/sluzbeni/2013_02_23_382.html>. [↑](#footnote-ref-23)
24. Croatia, Act on the Amendments to the Act on the Elections of Representatives from the Republic of Croatia to the European Parliament (*Zakon o izmjenama i dopunama Zakona o izborima zastupnika iz Republike Hrvatske u Europski parlament*) (2013) Official Gazette (*Narodne novine*) No. 23/13. Available at: <http://narodne-novine.nn.hr/clanci/sluzbeni/2013_02_23_382.html>. [↑](#footnote-ref-24)
25. Croatia, Proposal of the Act on Amendments to the Act on the Elections of Representatives from the Republic of Croatia to the European Parliament (*Prijedlog zakona o izmjenama i dopunama* *Zakona o izborima zastupnika iz Republike Hrvatske u Europski parlament*) (2013) available at: www.sabor.hr/prijedlog-zakona-o-izmjenama-i-dopunama-zakona-o-i. [↑](#footnote-ref-25)
26. Electoral Act 1992, section 82. [↑](#footnote-ref-26)
27. Law 17/2003, New rules for the exercise of voting rights by voters suffering from serious illness (*Legge 5 febbraio 2003. n. 17, Nuove norme per l'esercizio del diritto di voto da parte degli elettori affetti da gravi infermità*), available at: [www.parlamento.it/parlam/leggi/03017l.html](http://www.parlamento.it/parlam/leggi/03017l.html) [↑](#footnote-ref-27)
28. Law 46/2009, OJ 2009 no 105. [↑](#footnote-ref-28)
29. Law 107/2010, (*Legge 24 giugno 2010, n. 107, Misure per il riconoscimento dei diritti alle persone sordocieche*), OJ 2010 no 161, available at: <http://www.handylex.org/stato/l240610.shtml> [↑](#footnote-ref-29)
30. Law 15/1991, (*Legge 15 gennaio 1991, n. 15, Norme intese a favorire la votazione degli elettori non deambulanti),* OJ 1991 no. 16. [↑](#footnote-ref-30)
31. Available at <http://www.osce.org/odihr/elections/Latvia/86363>, p. 4. [↑](#footnote-ref-31)
32. Electoral Law (Law 14/79) [↑](#footnote-ref-32)
33. Information provided by the Directorate for the Protection of Persons with Disabilities (*Direcţia Protecţia Persoanelor cu Dizabilităţi, DPPD*) in the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Protection and the Elderly (*Ministerul Muncii, Familiei, Protecţiei Sociale şi Persoanelor Vârstnice, MMFPSPV*). Letter No. 18495/04.08.2013 from the Directorate for the Protection of Persons with Disabilities (*Direcţia Protecţia Persoanelor cu Dizabilităţi*), Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Protection and the Elderly (*Ministerul Muncii, Familiei, Protecţiei Sociale şi Persoanelor Vârstnice*) to the NFP (Centre for Legal Resources), . [↑](#footnote-ref-33)
34. Permanent Electoral Authority (*Autoritatea Electoral Permanentă*) Draft law on the Electoral Code (*Proiect de lege privind Codul Electoral*), available at: <http://www.roaep.ro/legislatie/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/CODUL-ELECTORAL.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-34)
35. Swedish Election Act (Vallagen SFS 2005:837), Chapter 7 paragraph 3, [↑](#footnote-ref-35)
36. [↑](#footnote-ref-36)
37. Sweden, E-voting and other electoral issues SOU 2013:24 (*E-röstning och andra valfrågor, SOU 2013:24*), p. 154, available at: [www.regeringen.se/content/1/c6/21/48/78/89002b33.pdf](http://www.regeringen.se/content/1/c6/21/48/78/89002b33.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-37)
38. Law on Elections to the National Assembly 2006, Art 79 [↑](#footnote-ref-38)
39. See: <http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0005/116906/Disabled-people-voting-rights-factsheet-GB.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-39)
40. UK (2000). [↑](#footnote-ref-40)
41. *Ibid.* [↑](#footnote-ref-41)