



Serbia's intervention
Damjan Tatic to: davidp
Cc: doultonf

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Your excellencies, dear colleagues,
Republic of Serbia would first of all like to express its' appreciation to the presidency of the session and all the panelists. We would like to congratulate all the experts elected yesterday to the Committee for the rights of persons with disabilities and express our deepest appreciation to all the state parties who have made the election of Serbia's expert to the Committee possible with their votes in favor of Mr. Damjan Tatic. Serbia has ratified the Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2009. Prior to adoption we have been harmonizing national legislation with its provisions, having adopted number of laws. Today I will concentrate just on laws relevant for implementation of articles 19 and 24 which we discuss. Last year Serbia adopted the new Law on Basis of System of Education. For the first time law provides explicitly for inclusive education system. It focuses on individual curricula and support plans suited to each student with disability, engagement of teacher assistants, use of sign language and accessible formats and aids, multidisciplinary assesment of needs of each child for potential support in social and health care and education. The law should bring effects since September 1st and the beginning of the new school year and we in disability movement await anxiously its first results. As for article 19, existing legislation solely provides for monetary allowance-

cash benefit- for other persons assistance to which persons with disabilities are entitled and the day care centers. Over the past several years local disabled people organizations in Serbia were providing pilot project of personal assistant services and supported housing with financial support from international donors, Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs and local authorities. Good practices and lessons learned during those projects have been

incorporated into the draft of new Law on Social Security and Welfare which should enter in force in January 2011 and it will provide for independent living services such as personal assistance and supported housing, as well as day care centers and cash benefit disability allowances.
Thank you for your time and attention,

On behalf of Republic of Serbia
Damjan Tatic, Ph. D.