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NEWS REPORT

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| Country: | Czech Republic |
| Title: | The Ombudsman established an advisory council for CRPD monitoring |
| Date: | 11 June 2018 |
| Expert: | Jakub Tomšej |
| <u>Context</u> | |
| Issue at stake: | CRPD monitoring |
| Ground of discrimination: | Disability |
| Source: | National equality body |
| Field: | All |
| Applicable law: | Act No. 349/1999 Sb., on the Public Defender of Rights |

Content

Policy development: On 22 May 2018, the Ombudsman established an advisory council in the area of rights of individuals with disabilities. Subsequently, a first meeting of the council took place.

The establishment of the council follows recent changes to the Act on the Public Defender of Rights, based on which the Ombudsman became the responsible body for CRPD monitoring as of 1 January 2018.

The council consists of 11 members, most of which come from the NGO sector.

The council has subsequently determined areas in which it plans to be active. As a first step, it contemplates to map the current situation with the aim to propose measures and strategies for improvement of the current state in the Czech Republic with regard to the position of individuals with disabilities. The activity of the council should concentrate on Articles 9 (accessibility), 12 (equality), 13 (justice), 19 (independent manner of life), 23 (family and housing), 24 (education), 25 (health), 27 (employment), 28 (social protection) and 30 (participation at cultural and political life) of the CRPD. It is not yet clear which of the areas will be prioritised.

Key points of analysis: While the advisory council does not have any decision-making powers, it appears that it has the potential of drawing more attention to the issues that people with disabilities face and proposing legislative and other measures. To which extent the Ombudsman will be able to find political support for such measures, is not clear.

Internet link source: <https://www.ochrance.cz/monitorovani-prav-lidi-se-zdravotnim-postizenim/>.