

Question for written answer E-007652/2014
to the Commission
Rule 130
José Blanco López (S&D)

Subject: Recognition of incapacity

In meetings with the association for retired returned emigrants in Galicia, I have become aware of the problems faced, on their return to their own country, by emigrants who were recognised in their host country as having a disability.

The absence of mutual recognition arrangements in this respect points up the need for the harmonisation of tax law across all the Member States to avoid situations of relative disadvantage vis-à-vis paying tax. The people concerned here have disabilities that are recognised in many countries but, on returning to Spain, they have not been recognised as disabled and cannot benefit from the tax exemptions to which such recognition would entitle them.

1. Does the Commission intend to promote measures on the recognition of disabilities, so as to facilitate mutual recognition arrangements between countries, and on tax harmonisation to encourage a fairer application of tax exemption rules?
2. Will the Commission promote measures for the harmonisation of labour law in relation to the recognition of entitlement to benefits?
3. Does the Commission not think that host countries ought to make it easier for emigrants to obtain documentary proof of recognised incapacities in their own languages, in order to facilitate the forwarding of records and avoid the expense of translation, or that there ought to be direct communication between the national authorities concerned?