

**Question for written answer E-000076/2015/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Family caregivers in Italy

Family caregivers are those who, by choice or necessity, take responsibility for the 24-hour care of people who are unable to live independently.

In Italy, the percentage of people with a disability who are not receiving institutional care or home care stands at 77.4 %, the highest in Europe. This explains why there are some four million informal caregivers in Italy (OECD, 2013).

Caregivers in Italy are not protected by specific social policies, as is the case in most European countries. Their main means of support are care allowances, which are flat-rate amounts paid to people with a disability. This has fostered the employment of immigrant workers in the sector, who, according to the INPS (Italian Social Security Agency) now number approximately 710 000.

Italian legislation does not draw any distinction in the severity of disabilities as regards care requirements, and there are virtually no rules on the training of workers employed in the sector (only 5.7 % are specialist nurses), which demonstrates a lack of concern for the quality of care provided.

Since, unlike health policies, social policies cannot invoke the rights guaranteed by the Constitution or by other legislative acts, can the Commission clarify which measures and good practices it will be recommending for the situation in Italy, via the Social Protection Committee and policies on active ageing?