

**Question for written answer E-002533/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Marek Plura (PPE)

Subject: Accessibility of the tourism sector for persons with disabilities

Tourism is a growing sector of the economy and, as such, it offers many European regions an opportunity for development. However, it is vital to take strategic steps to remove barriers and adapt the sector to consumer demands. An important issue is adapting services to meet the needs of different societal groups.

I believe that the European Charter for Sustainable and Responsible Tourism will help to meet the requirements.

One in six people in the EU is affected by disabilities: these people often face difficulties in fully exercising all of the rights conferred upon EU citizens (e.g. those referred to in Article 26 of EU Charter on Fundamental Rights), and particularly the right to freedom of choice with regard to travel and access to cultural goods.

A Commission report entitled 'Economic impact and travel patterns of accessible tourism in Europe' shows just how numerous and serious are the barriers that face tourists with disabilities.

In this connection, I would like to request information on improving accessibility in the tourism sector for persons with disabilities.

What steps does the Commission plan to take in order to ensure that the introduction of the Charter helps to improve the accessibility of tourist services for persons with disabilities?

What steps does the Commission intend to take to conclude work on introducing an EU disability card¹, which will ensure recognition of the status of disabled persons and, therefore, promote the mobility and active participation of this societal group?

¹ EU Citizenship: Commission proposes 12 new actions to boost citizens' rights
EC - IP/13/410 08/05/2013