

**Question for written answer E-003836/2015  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Carers in Italy

A carer is someone who either chooses, or is compelled to provide round-the-clock assistance to individuals who are unable to care for themselves.

The percentage of disabled people in Italy who do not receive institutional or home care stands at 77.4 % – the highest in Europe; this is a clear indication as to why there are approximately 4 million informal carers in the country (OECD, 2013).

Unlike the majority of countries in Europe, Italy has no specialised social policies to protect these carers, their main resource for financial support being the so-called helplessness allowance – a lump sum paid to people with disabilities. This situation has led to an increasing number of immigrant workers being employed in the sector, a total which now stands at roughly 710 000, according to figures from INPS (the Italian National Social Welfare Institution).

No consideration is made for the severity of handicap within the Italian legal system when it comes to care giving, and there is virtually no regulation of workers' training in the industry – only 5.7 % are actually specialised nurses. This clearly demonstrates a lack of consideration for the quality of care provided.

Given that, in stark contrast to health policies, social policies cannot claim rights guaranteed by the Italian Constitution or other legal acts, can the Commission explain what measures and good practices it plans to recommend for the current situation in Italy, within the framework of the Social Protection Committee and policies for active ageing?