

**Question for written answer E-012142/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Helga Stevens (ECR)

Subject: European Disability Card and sign language

I welcome the initiative taken by the Commission to introduce a European Disability Card for persons with disabilities, enabling disabled people to move more freely within Europe and access certain benefits. While this card is a step in the right direction, it leaves large gaps, in particular with regards to deaf sign language users.

1. What does the Commission intend to do to ensure that deaf sign citizens have access to benefits and services (such as sign language interpretation) on the same basis as other persons with disabilities in all participating countries, in the areas of culture, leisure, transport and sport?
2. The Erasmus+ programme allows young people from all over Europe to gain short-term experience abroad. Participants with disabilities, most notably those needing sign language interpretation and/or captioning services, are routinely placed at a disadvantage whereby neither the host country nor the home country is put under an obligation to provide reasonable accommodation in accordance with the UNCRPD. How will the Commission ensure that the programmes concerned are accessible to all? Will a proactive approach with regard to redress be adopted, involving relevant actors such as Solvit and the European Ombudsman?

A copy of this Written Question has been forwarded to the European Ombudsman.