

**Question for written answer E-013953/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Enrico Gasbarra (S&D)

Subject: Child-friendly areas in public places and offices

The European Union has defined the welfare and protection of children as being one of the fundamental principles of its social model. In this regard, the establishment of appropriate child-friendly areas in public places is of particular importance. As long ago as the 1990s, in the Green Paper on the Urban Environment, the Aalborg Charter and the Habitat programme, the EU stressed the need to ensure that children were provided with an environment of inclusion and accessibility in urban areas.

Will the Commission, along the lines of some of its awards, such as the Access City Award (European award for accessible towns and cities) introduced in 2010, set up mechanisms to promote and incentivise state-of-the-art projects concerning the relationship between urban planning and child-friendly areas, especially in the workplace?

More specifically, will the Commission recommend a common strategy for Member States to make it easier for families, especially single parents, to be closer to their younger children in the workplace, so that they can balance their working and family lives and thus reduce costs, inconvenience and their detachment from their children?