

**Question for written answer E-002562/2016  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Jutta Steinruck (S&D) and Norbert Neuser (S&D)**

Subject: Mobility scooter ban introduced by the Rhine-Moselle Transport Authority (VRM)

VRM, based in Koblenz, introduced a ban on mobility scooters on buses and trains in January 2016. The authority, when asked for reasons for its decision, cites alleged safety risks which, it says, have also been demonstrated by the German Transport Operators Association. Power wheelchairs, however, almost identical in design, may still be taken on buses and trains. This constraint on the mobility of persons with disabilities is contrary to the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020 adopted by the Commission in 2010. The ban represents a severe constraint on accessibility, scope for participation and equality - aspects addressed in the strategy. Persons with disabilities should be enabled to participate fully in public life and have access to public services.

1. Does VRM's ban on mobility scooters on buses and trains infringe the right, laid down in Article 9 of the United Nations' fundamental rights charter, for persons with disabilities to participate fully in public life and have access to public services?
2. Is VRM, as a result of the ban introduced on 1 January 2016, in breach of the requirement that local public transport must be accessible?
3. What is being done to enable transport authorities and disability self-help associations to formulate jointly the non-discriminatory transport arrangements required by EU passenger transport directives?