

**Question for written answer E-003759/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Jarosław Wałęsa (PPE)

Subject: Use of the internet by people with disabilities

Everyone, whether disabled or not, has the right to use the internet. Visually-impaired people should not be deprived of the possibility to browse web. That would go against the principle that everyone has the same right of equal access to information This is laid down in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Despite the recommendations for certain entities to apply WCAG 2.0 standards, inadequate use is still made of this technology, which makes it harder for visually-impaired people to freely browse the web. Consideration should be given to the introduction of stricter rules on enforcing the law regarding the application of this technology by institutions. Research has shown that in some Member States only 22% of citizens with a disability have access to the web.

1. What is the Commission's position on the failure to comply with rules on the use of technology, which in this case is intended to allow citizens with specific disabilities to use the internet?
2. Given that people with disabilities are dependent on companies' decisions on whether to apply WCAG 2.0 standards, how does the Commission view the idea of making the use of this technology compulsory at a later stage?