

**Question for written answer E-005396/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Cătălin Sorin Ivan (S&D)

Subject: Bank loans for the visually impaired

According to reports in the media, the banking system is discriminating against the visually impaired in several EU Member States.

People with this disability and an entrepreneurial spirit are complaining that they cannot start up in business because bank staff are refusing to grant them financing. Time and again, the explanation they are given is that they will be unable to repay the loan, when this is because the banks do not factor in their invalidity allowance, social assistance or attendance allowance and this makes them ineligible for a loan.

1. Does the Commission have information on this matter, which is disadvantaging the visually impaired?
2. What can the Commission do to help visually impaired persons who are seeking bank loans, and what penalties should be imposed on banks that refuse to grant loans to people with this disability?