

**Question for written answer E-002151/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Doru-Claudian Frunzulică (S&D)

Subject: Challenges of accessing the ESIF

The European Association of Service Providers for People with Disabilities (EASPD) commissioned a study in 2015 examining the main challenges that social service providers face in accessing the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF). One of the principal concerns relates to the issue of communication, with several organisations noting that information on ESIF calls for proposals was not sufficiently user-friendly or accessible for smaller organisations with less experience who wish to access structural funds.

In addition, organisations stressed there was a smaller range of eligible activities for people with disabilities in 2014-2020, noting that most available funding focused on investments to improve the employment situation of beneficiaries, leaving less money for personal assistance services and non-work-related training courses for people with disabilities.

Will the Commission tackle this issue when assessing ESIF measures?