

**Question for written answer E-003032/2017  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Viorica Dăncilă (S&D)**

Subject: Guide dogs for the hearing impaired

In the European Union many people with a hearing impairment need to travel to and from a variety of public places for a range of personal problems and needs. A number of NGOs seek to assist them by providing specially trained dogs to guide and support them, in an effort to make those individuals less reliant on other people or family members to address their needs.

Dogs that accompany hearing-impaired people tell their masters when they hear certain sounds at home, such as bells, clock alarms, the phone ringing, a fire alarm, when the baby is crying or when someone calls them. They are trained to warn the person when they hear a sound and to lead them towards the place where the sound is coming from.

How does the Commission plan to help Member States to run projects at local and regional level given the increasing number of people participating in such initiatives? How will it help them to access public institutions and spaces with guide dogs?