

WRITTEN QUESTION E-4053/00
by Ulpu Iivari (PSE)
to the Council

Subject: Right of disabled people to take guide dogs in taxis

A visually impaired guest who had been taking part in a disabled people's art exhibition at the European Parliament's place of work in Brussels was not permitted to take his guide dog in a taxi. He asked six different taxis, but they all refused to take the guide dog in the car.

Guide dogs which assist blind and physically handicapped people are indispensable to their owners. It is absolutely essential that disabled people should be able to travel in as trouble-free a way as possible. They should not therefore be hindered in their use of public services.

Do taxi drivers have the right under Belgian law to refuse to take guide dogs on board? How does the Council propose to ensure that disabled persons have the right to take a guide dog with them in a taxi?