

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3918/08
by Richard Howitt (PSE)
to the Council

Subject: Availability of impartial advice on driving and vehicle choice for disabled people in Europe

Research indicates that over three million EU citizens with a disability have little or no access to information, advice, assessment and rehabilitation services to enable them to become drivers. The lack of such information severely limits their freedom of opportunity and choice and contributes to the exclusion of disabled people from the labour market.

Demographic trends indicate clearly that the numbers of older drivers in our populations, many of whom will have some degree of disability, is increasing. The need for advice and assessment to prolong safe driving will also increase significantly.

While some Member States (for example the Netherlands, the UK and Belgium) have well established services providing information, advice, assessment and rehabilitation for drivers, many others provide no such services.

Does the Council agree that the availability of impartial information, advice and assessment on driving and vehicle choice is an essential part of delivering equality of opportunity to disabled people?

Will the Council undertake a comprehensive review of the availability of such services across Member States?