WRITTEN QUESTION E-4963/08 by Dieter-Lebrecht Koch (PPE-DE) to the Commission

Subject: Disabled Air Passengers' Regulation

The Commission has said that it is committed to ensuring the successful implementation of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2006¹ concerning the rights of disabled persons and persons with reduced mobility when travelling by air.

However, there is continuing evidence of discrimination against disabled people both by airlines and at airports in contravention of the Regulation. There is also evidence of delays in implementation and of a wide divergence in the approach being taken in different Member States to monitoring and enforcement of the Regulation.

Will the Commission describe what steps it has - or will - put in place to ensure that it meets the goal of the Regulation: 'to give disabled people and people with reduced mobility the same right as all other citizens to free movement, freedom of choice and non-discrimination'?

In particular, will the Commission give details of the level of resources (manpower and budgetary) it is dedicating to ensure that the Regulation is applied fully and fairly and on a common basis across all Member States and to ensure that it will be able to meet the requirements of Article 17 for a report to the Parliament and the Council by 1 January 2010 on the operation and effects of the Regulation?

¹ OJ L 204, 26.7.2006, p. 1.