

**Question for written answer E-002727/2012
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Vincenzo Iovine (ALDE)

Subject: Right of mobility for the disabled

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was the first international instrument on human rights ratified by the EU. On 4 July 2009, the Convention was signed by all Member States, 19 of which have also signed the Optional Protocol to the Convention.

The European Parliament has often turned its attention to people with disabilities and recently adopted the report on mobility and inclusion of people with disabilities, calling on Member States and the Commission to draft legal standards and legislation at EU level.

Freedom of movement is a fundamental right within the European Union. At the present time, Italian cities do not seem to be technically suited to guarantee freedom of movement. Getting around the city for disabled and blind people means facing a veritable obstacle course on a daily basis. The pavements are invaded by cars and motorbikes, wheelchair access paths are often blocked, there are no ramps to allow the disabled to get on and off trams and buses and the underground stations are completely lacking stop sound signals.

The general obligations cited in Article 4 of the Convention include measures for undertaking or promoting research and development of goods, services and equipment as defined in Article 2 of the Convention, which should require the minimum possible adaptation and cost to meet the specific needs of people with disabilities, to promote their availability and use and to promote universal design in the development of standards and guidelines.

In view of the points raised above, does the Commission not feel that these impediments constitute a violation of Article 21 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, under which all forms of discrimination, in particular based on sex, race, skin colour or ethnic or social origin, genetic features, property, birth, disability or sexual orientation are prohibited? What action does the Commission intend to take to ensure that the Convention is effectively implemented in Italy?