

**Question for written answer E-005000/2012
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Frieda Brepoels (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Accessibility to amusement parks for persons with a disability

Plopsaland amusement park recently drew up new rules in collaboration with the TÜV-SÜD Benelux inspection centre. The rules refer to European Standard EN 13814 for amusement park installations. On the basis of these new rules, Plopsaland has decided to deny persons with a physical or visual disability access to 19 attractions. Furthermore, persons with an intellectual disability are denied access to 4 attractions. This measure has caused a storm of protest in Flanders.

From a previous answer from the European Commission to questions including P-004715/2011, it appears that in 1992 the European Council removed a proposal for a specific guideline from the European legislative programme and that the regulation of the safety of amusement park attractions is accordingly under the jurisdiction of the Member States.

In this context, can the Commission answer the following:

1. Is the Commission aware of the situation concerning Plopsaland? How does the Commission assess this, in particular in view of the non-discriminatory principle and access for persons with a disability?
2. Is the Commission prepared to reconsider its proposals for a specific guideline on amusement park attractions? If so, when and how can the principle of accessibility for persons with a disability be included in this? If not, why not?
3. On 21 June the Council will once again consider the proposal for Directive 2008/0140 on implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation. Does the Commission see a possibility of bringing the notion of amusement park accessibility into the discussion?
4. What other measures relating to the case does the Commission consider possible?