

**Question for written answer E-008960/2012
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Sylvana Rapti (S&D)

Subject: Use of sign language in broadcasts of EU institution speeches and press interviews

Following the State of the Union address given by the President of the European Commission, Mr Barroso, at the European Parliament on 12 September 2012, the European Union of the Deaf (EUD) challenged¹ the President over the absence of a sign language interpretation of his address.

In Resolutions A2-302/87 of 17 June 1988 and B4-095/98 of 18 June 1998, the European Parliament recognises the need for interpretation into sign languages and calls on the Commission to ensure that public meetings organised by EU institutions are accessible to deaf people by providing a sign language interpretation service on request.

In 2010, representatives of all National Associations of the Deaf in the EU Member States signed the 2010 Brussels Declaration on Sign Languages in the European Union which invited the EU to provide sign language interpretation services within its institutions to model best practice.

In its Communication on the European Disability Strategy 2010–2020 (COM(2010)0636), the Commission refers to improving access to services for the deaf, including audiovisual services, and exploring ways for citizens to use sign language to interact with the EU institutions.

Will the Commission say if it has explored the possibility, in cooperation with the European Parliament and the European Council, of simulcasting in sign language important speeches and press interviews given by representatives of the EU institutions?

¹ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T2SFdmzEDNw>