

**Question for written answer E-009369/2012
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Martin Kastler (PPE)

Subject: Discrimination against people with disabilities: accessibility for guide dogs

Article 26 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights recognises that persons with disabilities have the full and unrestricted right to 'independence, social and occupational integration and participation in the life of the community'. The European Action Plan for Equal Opportunities for People with Disabilities (COM (2003) 0650), reiterates the principle of absolute non-discrimination. Cases have, however, come to light in which persons with a visual impairment or another disability were refused entry into restaurants or shops because they had a guide dog.

1. Given that European primary law unequivocally outlaws discrimination, are there national standards or EU-wide rules under which trained guide dogs for the blind are classified as medical equipment, and can thus, regardless of general national regulations, enter as many places as possible?
2. Would the Commission agree that it must take action to remedy this unacceptable, discriminatory state of affairs by ensuring the adoption of clear European legislation?