

**Question for written answer E-002004/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: The establishment of a European Commission directorate for disability

Over 80 million people with disabilities face considerable barriers to accessing education, employment, goods and services in the EU, leading to greater social exclusion and poverty.

Article 10 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, Articles 21 and 26 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, and the new accessibility-related rules in the new regulation governing all European Structural and Investment Funds from 2014 provide that people with disabilities should benefit from all possible EU measures and action to ensure their independence and social inclusion.

Article 4 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), to which the EU is party, requires States Parties 'to adopt all appropriate legislative, administrative and other measures for the implementation of the rights recognised in the [...] Convention' in all policies and programmes.

In order to achieve significant advancement in the lives of disabled people and their families, to safeguard their social inclusion, and to ensure that the relevant and necessary legislative measures are taken, we consider the establishment of a European Commission directorate, and not simply a unit within one, which is specifically responsible for disability affairs to be of paramount importance. Therefore, we, as responsible MEPs, would like to know ask the following questions:

1. Has the Commission has ever considered establishing a directorate responsible exclusively for disability affairs?
2. If yes, when and under which DG has the Commission planned to establish it?
3. If not, what was the reason behind this decision?
4. Has the Commission ever planned, or is it planning, to provide a DG with an advisory board of qualified disabled experts?
5. If not, how does the Commission plan to comply with the relevant article of UN CRPD in the Commission administration?