

**Question for written answer E-004556/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Catherine Stihler (S&D)

Subject: Blind and partially sighted people in the EU

A significant number of European citizens are or will be affected by sight loss. The World Health Organisation estimated in 2010 that across Europe there are 2 550 000 blind people and 23 800 000 partially sighted people, giving a total of 26 350 000 visually impaired individuals. The European Blind Union suggests an estimate of 30 000 000 visually impaired individuals. This higher figure takes into account the prevalence of sight loss amongst an increasing population of elderly people in Europe, which is extremely difficult to accurately quantify, and also the fact that a number of people who suffer from varying degrees of sight loss either ignore this or decide for personal reasons not to declare their condition.

Is the Commission aware of the numbers of blind and partially sighted people across the EU by country and, given the importance of policy being underpinned by up-to-date information, does it currently offer or intend to propose any guidelines to Member States on the frequency and criteria for the registration process?