

**Question for written answer E-004742/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Willy Meyer (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Discrimination against people with disabilities in Valencia

The situation of people with disabilities in the Autonomous Community of Valencia has become extremely precarious in the wake of substantial public spending cuts implemented by the regional government, which has thus abandoned to their fate thousands of people who need treatment, care and public services if they are to exercise their rights as citizens.

Uniquely in Spain, the Valencia Regional Government has made an unannounced decision to cut spending on disability benefits directly. As a result, of the 12 057 people in the region with non-permanent disability status, 5 252 have now been reassessed as having a lower degree of disability than previously, a twofold increase over last year.

Many people with a high degree of disability have had their benefits withdrawn after being assessed by a team hired by SERVEF, the region's service for training and employment. The selection process for this team, which appears to have miraculously cured some people of their disabilities, has been heavily criticised for its lack of transparency. In the Valencia region, even if nowhere else in Spain, a serious blow has thus been struck against the rights of people with disabilities, who are at the mercy of an administration that has unilaterally decreed that their condition has improved.

Has the Commission been informed of the predicament of people with disabilities in the Autonomous Community of Valencia?

Does it believe that the Valencia Regional Government's treatment of people with disabilities is consistent with Declaration 22 annexed to the Treaty Amsterdam?

Does the Commission think that, in allowing such clear discrimination against people with disabilities in Valencia to occur, Spain is acting in accordance with the principle of universal access to health services for all EU citizens, as recognised in many documents, such as the proposal for a regulation set out in COM (2011)0709?