

**Question for written answer E-005153/2014  
to the Commission**

Rule 117

**Georgios Papanikolaou (PPE)**

Subject: Reform of European policy on persons with disabilities

According to the European Disability Forum, approximately 16 % of European citizens are disabled. Despite initiatives taken by civil society, the EU and Member States, the living conditions of persons with disabilities are not always ideal. The main priorities to improve their access to services and generally improve their quality of life and safeguard their rights include full integration of sectors that concern them into a directorate general with sole responsibility for disability policies and easier access to funding. It should be noted that, despite the progress made in the EU, the Member States each continue to apply different policies, even in terms of access to financial resources, which in itself creates major differences from one Member State to another. The European Disability Forum has already put forward the EDF Manifesto detailing all the relevant proposals for public consultation.

In view of the above, will the Commission say:

Is it in support of the establishment of a Directorate General for persons with disabilities under the responsibility of a single Commissioner?