

**Question for written answer E-009435/2016/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Language policy in the European institutions

Finland is the first EU Member State to have adopted sign language in its constitution. Section 2 §17 ('Right to one's language and culture') of the Constitution of Finland (731/1999) states: 'The rights of persons using sign language and of persons in need of interpretation or translation aid owing to disability shall be guaranteed by an Act'. Chapter 5 § 26 of the Administrative Procedure of Finland Act (434/2003) also covers access to administrative matters using sign language.

Article 3 of EEC Council Regulation No 1 stipulates: 'Documents which an institution of the Community sends to a Member State shall be drafted in the language of such State.' As the right to use sign language is guaranteed by the Constitution of Finland and the linguistic right of signers was re-established in the Sign Language Act that entered into force on 1 May 2015, does Article 3 of EEC Council Regulation No 1 allow Finnish citizens who are signers to draft documents in sign language to the European institutions? Also, should replies from these institutions be drafted in sign language?