

**Question for written answer E-004587/2018
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Ilhan Kyuchyuk (ALDE)

Subject: European Strategy for people with disabilities

In 2010, the EC adopted the Disability Strategy 2010-2020, based on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The strategy aims at the active integration and full participation of people with disabilities in the public life of the Union. One of the priority areas is to increase the employment of people with disabilities. According to the Commission, people with disabilities account for one sixth of the total EU working-age population, but their employment rate is relatively low.

Currently, the Bulgarian government is preparing new reforms that directly affect the daily lives of people with disabilities, but they have not been enthusiastically accepted by this section of Bulgarian society. A number of protests and a hunger strike that lasted for several months have been organised, because these reforms introduce new rules for determining the degree of incapacity of people with disabilities and the benefits they will receive. They also directly affect their integration and access to the labour market.

- 1) Has the Commission been monitoring the reforms being prepared in Bulgaria?
- 2) Do they meet the objectives and priorities of the European Commission's Disability Strategy 2010-2020?
- 3) If there is a discrepancy between the Commission's afore-mentioned objectives and the reforms proposed by the Bulgarian government, how does the Commission intend to protect the rights and interests of people with disabilities in Bulgaria?