

**Question for written answer E-000681/2019
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Bogdan Andrzej Zdrojewski (PPE)

Subject: Mobility of people with disabilities at airports

In many of its policies and official documents the EU addresses the issue of the social inclusion of people with disabilities. Programmes are being developed to provide funding for projects that enable people with disabilities to travel and participate fully in society. They also have an educational value for communities in EU countries. However, many people with disabilities still face many, sometimes very simple, mobility problems.

One example, widely reported in the EU and addressed in detailed reports by organisations dealing with the social inclusion of people with disabilities, is the handling of wheelchairs at airports. Wheelchairs are treated as normal baggage and there is a risk, therefore, that they will be lost by baggage handlers. There have been many cases where an elderly or disabled person has not received their wheelchair back, which can be highly distressing.

In light of the above:

- 1) Are any measures planned to change the classification of wheelchairs from normal baggage to items requiring special attention from the company responsible for carrying them at airports?
- 2) What measures are being taken to ensure that people with disabilities are guaranteed adequate levels of service at airports?