

**Question for written answer E-000073/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Alex Agius Saliba (S&D)

Subject: Subtitles for deaf persons and those who are hard of hearing

Access to information and education are fundamental human rights provided for in Articles 11 and 14 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. Accessible TV and audiovisual content play a crucial role in creating inclusive societies, enhancing people's national identity and providing public access to news and information, which is especially critical in times of emergency. Broadcasting can also serve as an important educational tool.

In the modern digital world, access to information, communication technologies and audiovisual content plays a crucial role in enabling the full and equal participation in society of persons with disabilities. Unfortunately, persons with disabilities are still very restricted and have minimal access to such tools.

Partial or complete loss of hearing is a condition that affects more than 83 million people in the EU.

1. How will the Commission ensure that deaf persons and those who are hard of hearing all over Europe have access, in both public and private aspects of life, to communication technologies and good-quality audiovisual content?
2. Is it considering any regulatory measures for public service broadcasters requiring them to provide accessible formats of media content to persons with disabilities through subtitling or captioning?