

Question for written answer E-000215/2020
to the Commission
Rule 138
Laura Ferrara (NI)

Subject: Accessibility of food product labels to visually impaired people

An estimated 30 million people are blind or partially sighted in Europe ¹ .

Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 on the provision of food information to consumers has helped to protect consumers' health and interests, but it has not removed accessibility barriers for visually impaired people. Bringing in Braille on labels or using modern technologies to introduce audio-narrative labels for food produce, which is considered a best practice ² , could make that information more accessible and constitute a step towards a society that is more inclusive and respectful of the rights of the blind and visually impaired.

Taking into account that the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, the EU and its Member States are committed to improving the socioeconomic situation of persons with disabilities:

1. Does the Commission plan to amend Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 to make it compulsory for labels to be printed with Braille and/or to be compatible with technologies that read information out to visually impaired people?
2. What action does it plan to take to improve access to information on food products for the visually impaired?

¹ <http://www.euroblind.org/about-blindness-and-partial-sight/facts-and-figures#details>

² https://www.repubblica.it/economia/2019/06/15/news/olio_d_oliva_il_crea_lancia_la_prima_etichetta_per_ciechi_e_ipovedenti-228658740/