

Question for written answer E-000643/2020
to the Commission
Rule 138
Cindy Franssen (PPE)

Subject: Evacuation of people with disabilities in case of fire

When there is a risk of fire in a building, it is generally impossible for the lifts to be used, making stairs the only way out. During evacuations of buildings, this gives rise to many problems and hazardous situations for people with disabilities. If, when travelling, they are assigned hotel rooms on upper floors, they cannot leave the building unaided. As there are no clear European rules, the rules governing fire safety and evacuation vary considerably from one Member State to another. This is, on the one hand, a very hazardous state of affairs and, on the other hand, an obstacle to free movement for people with disabilities.

1. Is the Commission aware of this problem and of the demand and need for unambiguous European rules in this regard, so that persons with disabilities can be confident that it will be possible for them to be evacuated safely if a risk of fire arises in another Member State?
2. Do the disparities between Member States in terms of treatment of persons with disabilities when it comes to evacuation in response to a risk of fire constitute an obstacle to the free movement of such persons?
3. Has the Commission laid down specific rules on fire safety and evacuation of people with disabilities? If not, are there plans to do so in the future?