

Question for written answer E-000698/2020
to the Commission
Rule 138
Giorgos Georgiou (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Safeguarding the rights of persons with disabilities

In Cyprus, persons with disabilities are treated as second-class citizens because their basic rights are not secured. Disability organisations complain that their demands are being ignored, not only in relation to violations of fundamental rights, such as their participation in society and their social integration, but also in respect of the shortage of palliative care structures.

The Cypriot government's benefits policy is incapable of meeting their needs. Indeed, according to the European Statistical Office (Eurostat), persons with disabilities face poverty, with one in two unable to make ends meet.

The Cypriot government is also making unacceptable distinctions between children with disabilities and cutting benefits for children with partial disabilities. It is also calling for autistic children to undergo an IQ test: if they are classified as 'high-functioning autistic', they may lose their entitlement to disability benefits.

How does the Commission assess progress in implementing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020 in Cyprus?

What action will it take in respect of those Member States that have failed to implement the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the first international human rights convention ratified by the EU?