

**Question for written answer E-004281/2020  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Marco Campomenosi (ID), Antonio Maria Rinaldi (ID)**

**Subject:** Delays in the recognition of Italian sign language (ISL)

The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, adopted in December 2006 and ratified by the Italian Parliament in February 2009, provides a basis for the safeguarding of the rights of all citizens with disabilities to equality and social inclusion <sup>1</sup>.

For the Italian deaf community a huge step towards social inclusion would be the legislative recognition of Italian sign language (ISL), a vital way to facilitate communication in any field, especially in the public arena. In Italy, due to the failure to recognise ISL, there are still many obstacles the hard-of-hearing have to face in their daily relations with the state and public authorities, difficulties that have been exacerbated by COVID-19.

In the light of the above, can the Commission answer the following questions:

1. Will it take any measures to make up for Italy's extreme delay in recognising ISL under national law?
2. In the wake of the ongoing European Disability Strategy 2010-2020 <sup>2</sup> evaluation process, will it adopt a strategy to promote 'emergency' communication methods in view of the impediments linked to the use of face masks during the pandemic?

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<sup>1</sup> Resolution A/RES/61/106  
[https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/generalassembly/docs/globalcompact/A\\_RES\\_61\\_106.pdf](https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/generalassembly/docs/globalcompact/A_RES_61_106.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1484&langId=en>