

**Question for written answer E-004786/2020  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Engin Eroglu (Renew)**

Subject: Sheltered workshops in the EU

Following a visit to a sheltered workshop in the German state of Hesse, there is a need for clarification concerning such workshops and the Commission's overall disability strategy.

Firstly, there does not appear to be universal clarity as to what, in the context of EU law, the term 'sheltered workshop' means. Behind the term lie a very large number of different concepts and schemes which nonetheless are often collectively simply designated 'sheltered workshops'. In particular in view of the fact that sheltered workshops in some Member States employ mainly people with a low level of disability, while a different approach is taken in others, the term does not appear to be accurate.

Does the Commission have a standard definition of 'sheltered workshop' and, if it does, does it take account of the degree of disability of people making use of the services of such facilities?

Secondly, such workshops do not currently have a settled future, since the Commission's present disability strategy comes to an end this year. The next European initiative potentially influencing German and European disabled workshops, too, is the 2021-2030 disability strategy currently being drawn up by the Commission.

Is it planned that the new strategy will take a selective approach to the different degrees of disability and not just simply address 'people with disabilities' in a catch-all fashion, as is currently the case?