

**Question for written answer E-000760/2021
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Ernest Urtasun (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Inclusion of a Down's syndrome category in the Paralympic Games

In the Paralympic Games, people with Down's syndrome are included in the 'intellectual disability' category, putting them at a disadvantage because they usually have additional psychomotor problems that other participants in the same category do not have (hearing, visual and physical problems).

Down's syndrome is the most common cause of a congenital cognitive disability and it is estimated that at present some 9 million people around the world have this genetic condition. Elite sportspersons with Down's syndrome have the right to compete in top-class competitions just like any other group and to do so on an equal basis.

Can the Commission call for a review of the International Paralympic Committee's classification system for the Paralympic Games and, with a view to making the system fairer, for an overhaul?

Can the Commission urge the International Paralympic Committee to establish a unique category for sportspersons with Down's syndrome in the Paralympic Games?

Will the Commission take further action to promote elite – and not just recreational – sport among people with Down's syndrome?