Question for written answer E-002626/2021 to the Commission Rule 138 Sabrina Pignedoli (NI), Chiara Gemma (NI)

Subject: Use of cycle paths by persons with disabilities

Cycle paths are a very effective way of protecting cyclists and many other vulnerable road users, such as parents with young children or people driving scooters. Requests to use cycle paths also come from persons with disabilities, who are often prevented from accessing them by structural barriers. Minor alterations are often needed to make these routes usable by manually and electrically propelled wheelchairs. Provision must also be made for specific insurance cover.

There are no clear European rules on this matter and laws vary from one Member State to another.

Access to cycle paths would make independent mobility for persons with disabilities safer, as provided for in the Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030.

Can the Commission say whether steps are being considered which would make the rules on wheelchair mobility more uniform and more stringent?

What practical proposals does the Commission intend to make to encourage Member States to introduce clearer provisions on this form of mobility for persons with disabilities, in the form of rules, insurance safeguards and guidelines for the design and adaptation of cycle paths?