

**Question for written answer E-004935/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Access to certification of professional skills for protected categories

The certification of skills is one of the major professional attributes in the EU. It offers guarantees to employers regarding the actual ability of potential candidates, even beyond purely formal training.

In Europe, people living with frailty, including those in protected categories and individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) or neurodivergence, may nevertheless find it difficult to approach certification independently or may be discriminated against in procedures for identifying skills due to relational, communicative and sometimes cognitive differences.

Such people may thus find it difficult to obtain professional certification which could facilitate their entry into the world of work and the achievement of greater autonomy.

In the light of these obstacles and on the basis of tools such as Recommendations 2009/C 155/02, 2012/C 398/01, 2016/C 484/01; 2017/C 189/03, 2018/C 189/01 and Resolution 2018/C 458/08, the new disability strategy and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Articles 24 and 27), does the Commission intend to promote the certification of skills for the improvement of inclusion and employability for people with disabilities through:

1. Adequate tools, descriptors and indicators to prepare a service accessible to every EU citizen?
2. Specific professional resources to maximise the effectiveness of the service?
3. A flexible financial endowment to ensure effective representation of the skills of candidates belonging to protected groups?