

**Question for written answer E-000260/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Izaskun Bilbao Barandica (Renew)

Subject: Air passenger rights – people with disabilities

The 2014 revision of the Air Passenger Rights Regulation strengthened the guarantees offered to people with disabilities, consolidating facilities relating both to accompanying persons and to the transport and use of assistive equipment on board, and removing the scope for arbitrary exceptions. However, discrimination is still occurring. Last week, a disabled person was refused boarding on a Vueling flight from Seville to Bilbao. The flight commander gave the excuse that he could not carry the assistance vehicle, without properly documenting why the passenger was not accepted. The company's own rules authorise the carrying of such of assistive devices for people with disabilities, even when they use lithium batteries. In fact, the traveller had made the outward journey with the same airline without any problems. While it is the responsibility of the national authorities to monitor and correct such actions:

1. Does the Commission have statistics on incidents involving the transport of people with disabilities in Europe?
2. Are there plans to include a special section on disabled travellers in the 'accessible' platform outlined in the new European disability strategy adopted in March 2021?