Question for written answer E-001335/2022 to the Commission
Rule 138
Costas Mavrides (S&D)

Subject: Effective exclusion of blind persons from EU-funded infrastructural projects in the centre of Nicosia

According to a statement issued by the Pancyprian Organisation of the Blind (29 March 2022), blind or partially sighted persons are being effectively denied access to EU-funded infrastructural projects. This is also the subject of Question E-000356/2021. Concern is expressed at ‘dangerous granite blocks with pointed corners on the pavements of Makarios Avenue and of side-streets currently being improved with EU funding, effectively preventing blind people from using them and even placing lives at risk (photograph attached).

It is further alleged that, once funding has been obtained, attempts are being made to convince the Commission that the accessibility requirements set out in the relevant EU project funding provisions have in fact been met.

In view of this:

1. Can the Commission say whether it is aware of the above and of any infringements of international agreements requiring EU Member States to remove barriers and obstacles to accessibility?

2. What specific representations will it make to the authorities responsible for programme management to ensure that, from inception to completion, all the projects in question fully meet accessibility requirements?