

**Question for written answer E-001797/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Brando Benifei (S&D)

Subject: Infringement of the rights of persons with disabilities travelling by air

Recently, a wheelchair passenger from Paris was transiting through Palma de Mallorca airport on his way to Cagliari.

The airport managing body responsible for providing assistance during transit only did so once everyone else had disembarked from the incoming aircraft, effectively causing the passenger to miss his connection – unlike all the other transit passengers who were able to hurry to make the connection.

This incident constitutes not only an infringement of Article 7(5) of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2006, but also an indirect infringement of Regulation (EC) No 261/2004. The passenger is to submit claims for compensation to the competent authorities.

In 2017, the European Commission published a guide to good practice on the transport of persons with reduced mobility. However, in the meantime, COVID-19 has disrupted European logistics and the air passenger transport sector is still mired in crisis.

In the light of the above, can the Commission state whether it will take an initiative in the future to resume the process of building accessibility into European transport, and whether it intends to guarantee the rights of the most vulnerable travellers, who not only suffered greatly during the pandemic, but are clearly still paying the highest price in its aftermath?

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