

Question for written answer E-002133/2023/rev.1
to the Commission
Rule 138
Tom Berendsen (PPE)

Subject: Making travel more accessible for persons with disabilities

We regularly hear that persons with disabilities encounter problems when travelling abroad. The Dutch television programme Max Vakantieman¹ reported this week about a couple where the wife is dependent on a mobility scooter because of her limited mobility. Having booked a trip to Spain, the couple then faced a hefty baggage surcharge for the mobility scooter. This is no exception: devices that help people to be mobile are regularly treated as insurmountable obstacles. In addition, the people using such aids all too often have to deal with arbitrariness and a dearth of information when booking travel.

According to Commission figures, 87 million Europeans have a disability. It is therefore not only in the interest of these people themselves to ensure that they face as few obstacles and unpleasant surprises as possible when travelling. This also has huge potential for the tourism sector, something that is currently being ignored. In the light of the above:

1. Does the Commission agree that persons with disabilities should also be able to take holidays without worry?
2. What measures could the Commission take to help ensure accessibility for persons with disabilities in the tourism sector?
3. In the EU, is it possible to force businesses in the sector to provide clear, honest and transparent information on accessibility?

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¹ Max Vakantieman, broadcast on 3 July 2023: <https://www.maxvakantieman.nl/aflevering/oplichters-actief-op-online-boekingsplatforms-maandag-3-juli-2023/>