

**Question for written answer E-000205/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Konstantinos Arvanitis (The Left)

Subject: Severe restriction of the right of movement of persons with disabilities in Greece

On 29 December 2023 the Greek Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport issued Ministerial Decision 362897 on the rights of passengers using regular and occasional urban, long distance and international passenger transport¹. According to governmental statements, the initiative is supposed to be part of a package of measures to support the rights of persons with disabilities in the transport sector, purportedly enshrined in the wording of indent 1 of Article 3(1) of that ministerial decision.² However, in the immediately following indent, the relevant provision is, in practice, nullified through the obligation to comply with competing health and/or safety requirements (relating, in part, to EU law), as well as because of the inadequacy of vehicles and infrastructure to serve persons with disabilities.³

Twelve years after the issue of Regulation (EU) No 181/2011, Greek land-based public transport and stops as a rule do not serve, or underserve, most groups of persons with disabilities. At the same time, Greece consistently ranks among the worst performing Member States in accessibility and, instead of the government paying attention to the basics, it continues to legitimise the reluctance of public transport service providers to modernise infrastructure and vehicle fleets. In doing so, it is persistently and unacceptably passing on this serious problem to persons with disabilities, who are already vulnerable and at risk of social exclusion.

In view of the above, does the Commission consider that the facts set out above constitute an effective, reasonable and appropriate application or transposition of EU law (e.g.: Regulation (EU) No 181/2011 and Regulation (EU) 2021/782)? Does it believe that the facts set out above comply with Articles 21, 26 and 38 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union?

Submitted: 24.1.2024

¹ <https://www.athenstransport.com/2024/01/sygkoinonies-atoma-me-anapiria/>

² 'All citizens, and in particular persons with disabilities or reduced mobility, are entitled to board and use, without any direct or indirect discrimination, public road transport (buses and trolleybuses) and fixed railways (metro and tram)...'

³ 'Exceptionally, and in order for carriers to comply with the applicable safety requirements laid down by international, EU or national law and health and safety requirements set by the competent authorities or in circumstances where the layout of the vehicle or the infrastructure, including bus stations and terminals or places of embarkation or disembarkation, make it impossible for a person with disabilities or reduced mobility to board, disembark from or be carried in a safe and operationally feasible manner, they may refuse to accept a reservation or to issue or otherwise provide a ticket to or embark persons with disabilities or reduced mobility.'