

**Question for written answer E-000436/2024/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Inaccessibility of sports venues in Greece for spectators with disabilities

Despite repeated complaints being lodged over the years by individuals, associations and social bodies, the vast majority of Greek sports pitches and stadiums still lack basic infrastructure that would allow spectators with disabilities and other physical conditions/limitations to access these venues independently. The absence of such infrastructure can be seen throughout any given sports venue, from the surroundings of the sports facilities themselves to the grandstands, which currently have no accessible seating areas.

Sports pitches and stadiums are lacking in terms of suitable infrastructure (ramps, lifts, escalators, etc.) and in terms of staff who can assist those who are unable to look after themselves (people in wheelchairs or with mobility impairments, blind people, etc.) and who need a carer because of their physical condition.

Despite the fact that the complaints made over the the last 30 years, at least, have been accompanied by specific suggestions for improvements, the State has simply responded with empty promises and/or mentions of supposed obstacles, which simply perpetuate the unwillingness to do anything to remedy the situation.

Preventing and excluding people with disabilities from participation in social life is inadmissible and constitutes unacceptable discrimination. This is made clear in Article 26 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, Article 14 of the European Convention on Human Rights, Directive 2019/882, the Commission's Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030 and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities adopted in 2006, as well as a host of other binding texts¹.

In view of this:

What could the Commission do to help ensure that people with disabilities can enjoy full, unimpeded and equal access to sports events in Greece?

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¹ For instance, the Commission's action on accessibility to the built environment, which led to the development of European standard EN 17210, and Mandate 473 on accessibility following 'Design for all' standards, which resulted in European standard EN 17161.