Question for written answer E-000867/2024 to the Commission

Rule 138

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Subject: Rights for persons with disabilities when travelling by air

Insufficiently strong protections and rights are afforded to persons with disabilities under EU law, such as there being no right to travel end-to-end with their mobility equipment. This can mean being denied boarding or mobility equipment being put in the hold, where it can be damaged. To make matters worse, damage to this equipment is then also insufficiently compensated. All of this can lead to degrading treatment with reports of pilots announcing delays being caused by persons with disabilities who have been forced to wait until all other passengers have boarded first.

In light of the above:

- 1. Would the Commission support enshrining the right to end-to-end air travel with the use of wheelchairs or other mobility equipment in EU law so that no more people are denied boarding?
- 2. Would the Commission support mandating a minimum number of seats and a corresponding percentage of space on each commercial passenger aircraft that would be dedicated for persons with disabilities and their mobility equipment in order to facilitate the aforementioned right to end-to-end travel?
- 3. Would the Commission be prepared to raise the maximum threshold for compensation in cases where wheelchairs or other mobility equipment are damaged by introducing full liability for such damages?

Submitted:20.3.2024