

**Question for written answer P-003595/2018
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Lucy Anderson (S&D)

Subject: Helping individuals to enforce their rights

The proposal for a directive on representative actions (COM/2018/0184), is a welcome and long-awaited measure that has the potential substantially to assist groups of individuals in gaining access to justice in compliance with Article 47 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.

Given the usual imbalance of power and resources between ordinary citizens and larger private and public sector organisations, whether in relation to consumer and environmental protection, employment matters or civil liberties, it is fully justified to legislate in this field. With this in mind:

How does the Commission propose to assist individuals to pursue legitimate legal claims in courts and tribunals in the absence of a 'qualified entity' able to pursue collective redress on behalf of a group, including where it is difficult or impossible for smaller and voluntary advice groups to meet the 'sufficient financial resources' test in the proposed directive?

What further action does the Commission intend to take to protect the collective interests of individuals where these do not fall within EU consumer law as narrowly defined in this proposal, in particular in relation to the wider negative impact on the environment, as shown by the Dieselgate scandal?