

**Priority question for written answer P-003875/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Introducing sign language in committees

Sign language is a natural and common way for the deaf and hard of hearing to communicate. It involves the use of physical gestures to represent words, and it has its own grammar and syntax.

Sign language is not universal and there is no single sign language that is used throughout the world. Indeed, several different sign languages may be used within one country. There is, however, an international communication system (International Sign, IS) that is the 'lingua franca' for sign language users from different countries.

In the EU, 750 000 deaf people use sign language.

In light of the above, can the Commission answer the following:

1. What steps is the European Union taking in the discussions within the EU institutions to improve accessibility for people with disabilities?
2. Given the difficulties surrounding the introduction of a European sign language, why is there no automatic subtitling of web-streamed public meetings of the EU institutions, including by using state-of-the-art speech-to-text equipment?

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