

**Priority question for written answer P-002309/2023  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Krzysztof Hetman (PPE), Jarosław Duda (PPE)**

**Subject:** Removal of rehabilitation and therapy voucher from the European Funds for Social Development national programme

In the 2021-2027 programme, a new European Funds for Social Development (FERS) national programme will be implemented in Poland. The main areas of the programme are work, education, health and accessibility. Ensuring equal opportunities for people with disabilities and action relating to the implementation of the European Accessibility Act are important parts of the programme. On 11 March 2022, Poland's Council of Ministers approved the inclusion in the programme of a rehabilitation and therapeutic voucher as a form of social assistance for people with disabilities, the aim of which is to enable them to participate in the therapeutic and rehabilitation activities of establishments run by social economy entities. Unfortunately, however, the rehabilitation and therapeutic voucher was removed from the FERS national programme by decision of the Commission. In light of the above:

1. What are the reasons for the Commission's decision, given that access to rehabilitation and therapeutic courses has a positive impact on the inclusion and empowerment of people with disabilities and increases their chances of finding employment?
2. Has the Commission taken into account the fact that the rehabilitation and therapeutic voucher falls under ESF+ specific objective (h): fostering active inclusion with a view to promoting equal opportunities, non-discrimination and active participation, and improving employability, in particular for disadvantaged groups?
3. Has the Commission taken account of the broad support for this action among organisations working for people with disabilities and did it consult such bodies in the decision-making process?

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