

Question for written answer E-002927/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
Elena Kountoura (The Left)

Subject: Ensuring accessibility for persons with disabilities through the mandatory implementation of standard EN 17210: 2021 on a built environment accessible to all

The European Commission has recognised, in line with the principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, that accessibility is a fundamental condition for the enjoyment of the rights of persons with disabilities and their full participation in public life and society¹. However, significant gaps and disparities in the physical accessibility of public spaces and infrastructure remain, despite the existence of European standard EN 17210: 2021. This standard sets minimum functional requirements for the universal accessibility of buildings, public spaces and urban infrastructure², but its implementation remains patchy due to its non-mandatory nature.

Bearing in mind the European Parliament's recent resolution, which emphasises the need to improve accessibility for people with disabilities³, the significant number of EU-funded infrastructure projects that are implemented without adequate and binding physical accessibility conditions, the complaints from organisations and citizens about repeated delays, violations, discrepancies and gaps relating to accessibility⁴, and bearing also in mind the existence of standard EN 17210: 2021, which is currently being revised⁵, can the Commission answer the following:

1. Does it intend to propose a mandatory European framework for full accessibility, based on standard EN 17210: 2021, for all public and private projects, as well as for the renovation of existing infrastructure, funded by the EU?
2. Does it intend to link the use of European funds to mandatory compliance with binding physical accessibility requirements, in order to ensure a built environment that is accessible to all citizens?

Submitted: 15.7.2026

¹ See the Strategy for the rights of people with disabilities 2021-2030.

² The standard aims to describe basic, common minimum functional requirements and recommendations, applicable across the built environment, for an accessible and usable environment for all.

³ Resolution of 27 November 2025 on the EU strategy for the rights of persons with disabilities post-2024.

⁴ See report by the European Disability Forum, published in March 2025 (<https://www.edf-feph.org/eu-institutions-failing-its-staff-with-disabilities-un-experts-hear>), and the petitions submitted by citizens and organisations ([https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document/IUST_IDA\(2025\)780258](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document/IUST_IDA(2025)780258)), highlighting the legislative gaps and recurring patterns of exclusion in the daily lives of people with disabilities.

⁵ <https://www.cencenelec.eu/news-events/news/2026/en-in-the-spotlight/2026-02-26-en-17210-2021/>.