

**Question for written answer E-003565/2026/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 144

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Subject: Access to care for deaf people in the EU

According to a report published by the Association des Sourds de La Réunion ('La Réunion Deaf Association'), deaf people still face significant challenges in their access to care, as a result, in particular, of communication barriers, a dearth of sign language interpreters, insufficiently accessible medical information, and difficulties experienced in emergencies¹.

Although the organisation of health systems is a matter for the Member States, the EU is a party to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. In this context, the EU helps to support Member States in promoting equal access to services for persons with disabilities.

In the light of the above:

1. Does the Commission have data that make it possible to identify the main difficulties faced by deaf people in accessing care in the Member States?
2. What EU funding is currently available to support national initiatives geared towards improving the accessibility of care for deaf people, including interpretation, accessible information and training for healthcare professionals?
3. Does the Commission intend to support the sharing of best practice among the Member States, while fully honouring their powers when it comes to the organisation of health systems?

Supporters²

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¹ Association des Sourds de La Réunion, *Construire ensemble un meilleur accès – La qualité de la communication en terme de soins*, 2025 report, ISBN 978-2-9573393-1-0.

² This question is supported by Members other than the authors: Aleksandar Nikolic (Pfe), Emmanouil Fragkos (ECR).