

**Question for written answer E-004155/2026**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 144  
**Sophia Kircher (PPE)**

Subject: Hearing loss

Many people experience issues linked to hearing loss during their working lives. It can make it more difficult to communicate at work and access training, and lead to a drop in productivity, unemployment, early retirement and a loss of income. The direct and indirect costs of hearing loss and related diseases are estimated at EUR 213 billion per year for European countries.

Meanwhile, access to hearing screenings, diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation and hearing technologies varies between Member States. As demographics change, existing skills need to be preserved to the best extent possible across the EU and further improved – an objective the EU also sets out to achieve with the Union of Skills.

1. What recent EU-wide data does the Commission have on the impact of hearing loss on labour market participation, productivity and training? If there is not enough data on the matter, will it address this shortfall?
2. Has it looked into whether differences between Member States in access to diagnosis, rehabilitation and hearing technologies hinder the professional mobility of persons with hearing loss in the EU? If not, will it do so?
3. How will it factor in the participation of persons with hearing loss in the implementation of the Union of Skills, in particular when it comes to accessing training and obtaining professional qualifications?

Submitted: 14.10.2026