

(English version)

Question for written answer E-003570/25
to the Commission
Pascal Arimont (PPE)
(17 September 2025)

Subject: Freedom of movement for persons with disabilities within the EU

Article 19 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities guarantees persons with disabilities the right to live independently and to be included in the community and Article 28 obliges states to ensure access to personal assistance and related support measures.

In practice, however, many persons with disabilities who require daily care support face severe obstacles when seeking to transfer their residence to another Member State. The absence of EU-level mechanisms for the portability of personal assistance services and related financial allowances makes it extremely difficult to effectively exercise their freedom of movement rights under Article 21 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

This situation also affects students with disabilities participating in EU mobility programmes, such as Erasmus+, as well as citizens relocating for work, study, retirement or personal reasons, thus risking a form of indirect discrimination.

Can the Commission clarify:

1. which instruments currently exist to ensure the portability of personal assistance services and disability-related benefits between the Member States?
2. how the needs of persons with disabilities are addressed within the framework of mobility programmes to guarantee the continuity of assistance and allowances in the host Member State?
3. whether it is planning initiatives, including legislative proposals, to establish a European framework for the mutual recognition and coordination of personal assistance services and related financial support?

Submitted: 17.9.2025

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Mînzatu on behalf of the European Commission
(6 November 2025)

The EU social security coordination rules ⁽¹⁾ help to protect the rights of EU citizens with disabilities and their carers to social security benefits when they move across borders ⁽²⁾. Periods of insurance or residence completed in another Member State may be used to establish entitlement. Benefits remain fully payable even if the beneficiary lives outside of the paying Member State, although benefits categorised as special non-contributory cash benefits ⁽³⁾ or social assistance are excluded from this.

Directive (EU) 2024/2841 establishes the European Disability Card and the European Parking Card for persons with disabilities to facilitate the free movement of persons with disabilities by granting equal access to special conditions or preferential treatment offered to persons with disabilities across the EU by a wide range of services, activities or facilities, including parking. Social security, social assistance and other defined benefits and services, including some preferential conditions for accessing the latter, are excluded from its scope ⁽⁴⁾.

The Erasmus+ programme provides comprehensive inclusion measures, to allow for the participation of any social group regardless of their background. Additional costs directly related to persons with disabilities necessary for their participation in the mobility programme as well as in preparatory visits and for accompanying persons (including costs related to travel and subsistence, if justified and as long as not covered through other budget categories) can be supported at 100% on a real cost basis.

Currently, there are no plans or proposals for a European framework on mutual recognition and coordination of personal assistance services.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32004R0883&qid=1760080119491>.

⁽²⁾ See most recently Case C-116/23 XXXX v Sozialministerium, ECLI:EU:C:2024:292.

⁽³⁾ Article 70 and Annex X of Regulation (EC) No 883/2004.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2024/2841/oj/eng> — see Article 2(3).