

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003908/25
to the Commission
Kostas Papadakis (NI)
(6 October 2025)**

Subject: Urgent need for substantial measures to protect and support people with disabilities

In Greece, there are over 500 000 severely disabled people, of whom only 150 000 receive disability benefits. However, before the Disability Certification Centre (KEPA) was put into operation, 230 000 received benefits.

Widespread cuts are being made at the hands of the EU and governments, with dramatic consequences for people with disabilities. This situation is worsening with the premium paid to the military industry and European and NATO armament, which is fuelled by cuts in benefits and rights for people with disabilities. They encounter barriers even in being recognised as having disabilities, given that the KEPA is limiting any further benefits, while specialist schools are few and understaffed.

The EU's disability policy is built to the detriment of disabled people on a 'cost-benefit' basis, while meeting their needs is a profitable area for business groups.

In light of the above, what view does the Commission take of:

1. the EU, which citing the 'rule of law' follows a 'cost-benefit' in its policy on persons with disabilities, while billions are spent on military equipment and supporting the profitability of business groups, with the result that hundreds of thousands of disabled people are deprived of recognition, benefits and substantive support, while faced with the brutality of auctions and the complete commercialisation of services for their education, care, support and rehabilitation?
2. the fact that digital certification and the European Disability Card, despite the EU and Government's grandiloquence, have been shown to be nothing more than a digital tool for new cuts in benefits and rights for disabled people?

Submitted: 6.10.2025

**Answer given by Ms Lahbib on behalf of the European Commission
(22 December 2025)**

The Commission is committed to uphold the rights of persons with disabilities in line with the human rights approach of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which is being implemented in matters falling under the EU's competence.

It is envisaging new actions to enhance the strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030 ⁽¹⁾, as announced in its 2026 Work Programme. The strategy provides a framework for further progress towards improving the lives of persons with disabilities.

One of the flagship initiatives under the strategy is the European Disability Card, established by the directive (EU) 2024/2481 ⁽²⁾, which is being transposed by Member States into national legislation and will be applicable as of 2028.

The card aims to facilitate the free movement of persons with disabilities across the EU. It will provide them with legal certainty that their disability status will be recognised when travelling to or visiting other Member States for short stays and accessing special conditions or preferential treatment offered to residents with disabilities in respect of a wide variety of services, activities, or facilities, including parking rights.

The directive does not apply to the area of social security. The organisation of social protection systems and of disability assessment remains a national competence.

As a flagship action of the strategy, the Commission has also issued guidance on independent living and inclusion in the community of persons with disabilities in the context of EU funding ⁽³⁾.

It provides practical recommendations to Member States on the use of EU funding to accelerate the transition to community-based services and independent living for persons with disabilities.

⁽¹⁾ <https://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=23707&langId=en>.

⁽²⁾ Directive (EU) 2024/2841 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2024 establishing the European Disability Card and the European Parking Card for persons with disabilities, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2024/2841/oj/eng>.

⁽³⁾ Commission Notice Guidance on independent living and inclusion in the community of persons with disabilities in the context of EU funding. Available from: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/C/2024/7188/oj/eng>.