

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000280/26
to the Commission
Emmanouil Fragkos (ECR)
(25 January 2026)**

Subject: Support for organisations supporting persons with disabilities in Russia

In the past, the EU has provided financial and technical support, through its delegation to Russia and thematic funding tools, to civil society actors active in supporting older people and adults with disabilities, in particular during the pandemic, with social care, basic services, psychosocial support and accessibility actions, including grants to non-profit organisations and international intermediaries.

In the light of this pre-existing cooperation, can the Commission say:

1. Is it considering providing similar support in the future, especially after the end of the war, when the number of disabled people in Russia and Ukraine will have, unfortunately, increased?
2. What is its view on the principle that the protection of the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities is a universal obligation, independent of the political choices or international stances of non-EU governments, and does it consider that support for persons with disabilities should somehow be related to geopolitical conflict?
3. Does it consider that there could be — albeit at a strictly limited, humanitarian and non-political level — a minimum form of EU-Russia cooperation to improve the daily lives of persons with disabilities, through neutral international organisations or non-governmental bodies, without prejudice to the sanctions regime or the basic principles of the EU's foreign policy towards Russia?

Submitted: 25.1.2026

**Answer given by Ms Kos on behalf of the European Commission
(28 April 2026)**

Since Russia's unprovoked and illegal full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, the EU has adopted comprehensive sanctions and has suspended or terminated engagement, cooperation, programmes, and projects with Russian public bodies.

Alongside sanctions and international isolation, the EU has remained committed to supporting Russian civil society and independent media including in exile, recognising the clear link between external aggression and internal repression.

The EU has been providing substantial support to civil society organisations, non-governmental organisations human rights defenders, and independent journalists.

For many years, the EU provided substantial support to organisations assisting persons with disabilities and specific health conditions, despite the hostile operating ground in Russia.

Since 2022 and Russian aggression against Ukraine, support to civil society and independent media is part of EU's approach to Russia which aims to uphold democracy, human rights, and the rule of law, protect vulnerable groups, and counter state censorship and propaganda.

The EU will continue to apply international pressure on Russia for its human rights violations and to support individuals affected by the repression.
