

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000815/26
to the Commission
Regina Doherty (PPE)
(26 February 2026)**

Subject: Disabled parking permits

The new specifications for the EU disabled parking permit are to be introduced in 2027/2028. In the new design the photograph of the permit holder is no longer required. This change will severely hinder those involved in policing disabled parking spaces as the new design does not allow the inclusion of a photograph on the permit.

Disabled parking spaces are a very precious resource for disabled motorists. The removal of the photograph will certainly reduce the ability of the police and parking enforcement officials to ensure that disabled spaces are properly managed. While recognising that in the future there will be more digital enforcement of the scheme, the reality is that the digitalisation of the scheme is currently many years away and for the foreseeable future the physical permit will remain in operation. It is also worth noting that many EU countries have mandatory ID schemes which may remove the requirement for a photograph on the permit in certain locations. No such scheme is in place in Ireland.

This issue has the potential to become a very significant source of concern within the disabled community. Is there a possibility of retaining the photograph on the permit?

Submitted: 26.2.2026

**Answer given by Ms Lahbib on behalf of the European Commission
(17 April 2026)**

The Commission proposal for a directive establishing the European Disability Card (EDC) and the European Parking Card for persons with disabilities (EPC) ⁽¹⁾ provided for a photo of the cardholder on the reverse side of the EPC.

However, during the negotiations of the proposal, the European Parliament and Council decided not to retain the photo on the EPC for privacy reasons.

The agreed Directive (EU) 2024/2841 ⁽²⁾ establishes common formats for the EDC and the EPC, which must be respected. The format of the EPC does not provide for additional information to be added by the Member States other than the data fields in Annex II of the directive.

The EPC will be issued in a physical version, which may be complemented by a digital version, if a Member State so decides. The physical version of the EPC will be placed inside the parked vehicle.

As to enforcement checks, it should be noted that the card will be equipped with an interoperable QR code (quick response code), which will allow for verification of the card across borders by the relevant authorities.

The Commission is preparing a delegated act to be adopted in accordance with Articles 7(7) and 8(7) of the directive, which will, *inter alia*, lay down technical specifications for the QR codes and will provide for interoperability.

⁽¹⁾ COM (2023) 512 final: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52023PC0512&qid=1773841937378>.

⁽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>.