

**Question for written answer E-014029/2015/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Lampros Fountoulis (NI)

Subject: Discrimination against those with special needs

According to information appearing on a Greek website¹, a young man with Down syndrome, despite successfully completing his upper secondary school education and being accepted for vocational training in the tourism sector, was, because of the unacceptable behaviour of one of the instructors and official position adopted by the Ministry of Education, unable to complete his studies with practical work experience at a hotel in Athens, although the latter had, to its credit, accepted his application. The official explanation given was that successful graduation by a person with special needs would undermine the prestige of the vocational training institution! A public official responsible for training in the tourism sector was quoted as saying that, if such a thing were allowed to happen, all Down syndrome sufferers in Greece would be descending on the establishment in question.

In view of this:

- Is the Commission aware of this incident?
- What action could it take within the framework of the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020 to ensure that people with special needs are given full access to education, to which they are entitled, as well as assistance in entering the employment market?

¹ <http://geitoniamou.gr/2015/02/iakovos-andreadakis-enas-iroas-me-sindromo-down-pou-chalai-to-success-story-tou-tourismou>