

**Question for written answer E-015668/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Salvatore Domenico Pogliese (PPE)**

Subject: Support for people with autism during air travel

Air travel can be a very difficult experience for people with autism. The sensory capacities of a child with autism, for instance, can make travelling in an airplane very challenging from a psychophysical point of view. Just recently a person with autism was designated by airlines as an 'unruly passenger' because of difficulties in managing their behaviour in an unknown context perceived as being hostile. For this reason, projects have taken place in both Italy and Ireland to find an answer to this problem and make air travel easier for autistic people.

1. Does the Commission plan to launch, using EU funding, pilot projects specifically for people with autism in order to help them manage situations they find strange and traumatic, such as travelling by plane?
2. Does it plan to promote collaboration between European associations dealing with autism and public and private bodies involved in air transport, and how will it do this?
3. Does it intend to continue to invest in projects, such as 'Simple Steps', funded by the Leonardo programme, for example, to ensure people with autism, and their families and helpers, can live a calmer and more dignified life?