

Question for written answer E-013076/2013
to the Commission
Rule 117
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Subject: The internationalisation of European higher education

In its communication regarding European higher education in the world (COM(2013)0499), the European Commission noted that higher education is at the heart of the implementation of the Europe 2020 strategy to achieve sustainable, smart and inclusive growth and development. At the same time, the global 'race for talent' has made the internationalisation of European higher education a necessity. The added value of the European Union's involvement in efforts to internationalise European higher education is to provide stronger support to Member States and higher education institutions in the field of education policy and financial incentives for internationalisation strategies for European education.

In this context, and in view of the fact that the EU should work in collaboration with Member States while fully respecting the autonomy of higher education institutions:

1. Does the EC believe it is possible to create an 'EU Universities' status for higher education institutions in order to promote internationalisation, making them more attractive to students from third countries?
2. Does the EC believe that the level of recognition by third countries of higher education diplomas acquired in the EU is satisfactory? If not, does the EC think that this is an obstacle to the internationalisation of European universities?
3. Does the EC think that there is an overlap between the Bologna process and the education components of the Horizon 2020 programme? If so, does the EC believe that this would contribute to the process of internationalising European education, and how would this happen in practice?