

**Question for written answer E-007072/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
José Blanco López (S&D)

Subject: Education cutbacks

Over the last three years Spain's education system has suffered unprecedented attacks at the hands of the austerity policies embraced by the Spanish Government. Investment in education has been cut by 10% (by 25% in the national budget); the budget for grants has fallen by 13% and that for study aid by over 50%. Today, 16 000 fewer students receive grants and 677 000 less receive study aid. The budget for Erasmus grants has been cut from EUR 64 million to EUR 15 million and the number of teachers has fallen by over 22 000.

In its 2020 strategy, the Commission stresses the need to improve the quality of our education so that knowledge and innovation can become the cornerstones of a strategy for smart growth. However, cuts in education have the opposite effect.

Does the Commission see cuts in education as being compatible with the 2020 Strategy and with efforts to build social cohesion and a competitive economy based on smart growth? Does it intend to set binding commitments for investment in education in order to prevent an education gap within the Union?