

**Question for written answer E-007702/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Therese Comodini Cachia (PPE)

Subject: Education

According to the latest Global Competitiveness Index survey conducted by the World Economic Forum, Malta ranks nineteenth out of 28 Member States after slipping five places since last year as a result of less efficient primary education and of losing ground on technological readiness, among other factors. The EU has been flagging two critical issues for quite some time, on which there has been hardly any improvement: the very high number of early school leavers (22.6 %) and the relatively low number of students entering tertiary education (22.4 %).

Given the Europe 2020 target for Member States, whereby the Commission established that the percentage of early leavers from education and training (aged 18-24) should not exceed 10 %, is the Commission confident that Malta is doing enough to reach the target, especially as the number of young people out of work and not receiving any form of education or training, far from decreasing, has increased by 17 % over the last calendar year?