

**Question for written answer E-007755/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Notis Marias (ECR)

Subject: Funds for the recruitment of teachers at the Democritus University of Thrace under Presidential Decree 407

The Department of Language, Literature and Culture of the Black Sea Countries at the Democritus University of Thrace was established by Presidential Decree 90/2000, within the framework of the Programme of the Ministry of National Education and Religious Affairs, and funded by the European Union - Operational Programme for Education and Initial Vocational Training (EPEAEK).

The department's main activity is the cultivation, promotion and dissemination of the literature and culture of the peoples of the Black Sea countries through the teaching of and research into language and linguistics.

In recent years, funding for hiring temporary teachers under Presidential Decree 407 to teach language (basic course) has either been deferred by the Ministry of Education or has never materialised.

As a result, the department is not functioning properly and its work is being undermined.

In view of the above, will the Commission say:

- Is it aware of the operational problems at the Department of Language, Literature and Culture of the Black Sea Countries at the Democritus University of Thrace due to a failure to recruit teachers, and what action will it take to address this situation?
- Is it willing to provide the necessary funds to help this university department address its operating problems and ensure that it can function smoothly in order to improve the level of studies in this field?