

**Question for written answer E-000489/2015  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Marc Tarabella (S&D) and Hugues Bayet (S&D)**

Subject: Lessons in philosophy and citizenship

We have asked for the school curriculum to include lessons in philosophy and citizenship. During these lessons, children would learn, amongst other things, about different religions, their history and their origin, as well as concepts such as both secularism and living together.

In schools where classes in religion existed, these philosophy and citizenship classes would, to some extent, be a class about religions.

Tolerance and mutual respect must be learned from a very early age based on a common foundation.

When we see that lack of education or knowledge about one another played a large part in the recent tragedy which we have experienced, I believe that introducing philosophy courses such as these would make a lot of sense. Courses in citizenship would enable each child to understand fundamental concepts, such as freedom of expression or listening to others.

1. Does the Commission share this view?
2. Would it be willing to act as an initiator in order to urge States to introduce this concept into their education systems?