

**Question for written answer E-012818/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Takis Hadjigeorgiou (GUE/NGL)

Subject: School attendance in Syria

According to a UNICEF communication of 15 September concerning schools and school attendance in Syria, two million pupils will be unable to attend school, while a further 400 thousand may be forced to drop out as a result of ongoing conflict and displacement.

More than 5000 schools have been destroyed and, in 2014 alone at least 60 schools came under attack, some of them being deliberately targeted. 20 % of children are being forced to brave gunfire on their way to school, which only serves to illustrate their determination and that of their families to continue their education.

UNICEF has launched a major project designed meet at least the basic needs of pupils and help those who have dropped out of school resume their education. In its communication, it indicates that it needs \$12m immediately \$68m by the end of the year if it is to be able to continue its work.

In view of this:

Can the Commission say what financial contribution the EU is making to the work of UNICEF and what other contribution it intends to make?