

**Question for written answer E-013397/2015  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Inês Cristina Zuber (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Financial cuts to the Erasmus programme

It was recently reported that some 400-500 University of Lisbon (UL) students who applied to the Erasmus programme will not be eligible for study grants; the UL has already told the students who are planning to participate in this educational mobility programme in the second semester of the current academic year that it does not have the funds to support them. Moreover, several sources report that the national Erasmus+ agency itself has confirmed a cut in the programme's funding. The UL will thus have seen a cut of 20% over the previous year, and it is not the only higher education institution to have been affected in this way.

Can the Commission therefore tell us:

- Is the lack of funding available to the national Erasmus+ agency due to a delay in the transfer of funds from the European Commission, or does it stem from a cut in the amount assigned to Portugal?
- How does it feel the situation can be resolved to ensure that these students can receive the study grants they need to realise their mobility plans for the second semester?