

**Question for written answer E-013941/2015/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Sotirios Zarianopoulos (NI)

Subject: Immediate opening of all special needs schools

One month after the start of the school year, over 80 % of special needs educational establishments are either closed or operating below capacity owing to massive shortages of teaching, special needs and support staff.

As a result, parents, teachers and pupils are all at home, the children waiting for school to start and the teachers for employment. This has long been a highly unsatisfactory situation and this year matters have finally come to a head. Even when the special needs schools finally opened, the longstanding problem of transport services for pupils with disabilities remained unresolved, leaving many children unable to attend school.

According to the Education Minister, the vacancies cannot be filled until 20 October 2015 at the earliest. Supply teachers (rather than permanent staff) are to be recruited for special education establishments and paid through the NSRF. Experience to date, however, has shown that this is subject to long delays.

This constitutes yet another setback, not to mention unacceptable discrimination by the Greek Government and the EU against pupils with special needs in particular.

In view of this:

What Does the Commission think of this situation, in particular the need to open schools, provide them with sufficient fully established staff and lay on the necessary school transport services?