

**Question for written answer E-014119/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Viorica Dăncilă (S&D)

Subject: School dropout - children and young people in rural areas

Studies show that school dropout is a problem that is increasingly giving cause for concern in several Member States, and that particularly affects children and young people in rural areas. More than 270 000 minors have dropped out of school in Romania, for example, making it the European country with the third highest number of early school leavers. Most of these early school leavers are aged between 15 and 18 and come from poor families in rural areas. In most cases, it is financial problems that virtually force young people with very good academic results to leave school every year. Sometimes the parents do not have the necessary money to send their children to school – money for clothes, shoes and equipment – and sometimes the children are obliged to work to support their families.

What steps will the Commission take to encourage Member States to develop strategies designed to support children and young people in rural areas who wish to continue their secondary school and vocational studies but who do not have the necessary financial resources?