

**Question for written answer E-014827/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Frank Engel (PPE)

Subject: EU educational exchange programmes

EU-sponsored educational exchange programmes have been one of the most successful EU initiatives, not only in Member States but also in the Eastern Partnership countries.

However, it has come to my attention that not all qualified potential candidates can use this opportunity. Students and teachers hailing from non-recognised countries that are often in conflict, such as Nagorno-Karabakh, are not allowed to take part in these programmes because of the status of the territory in which they were born and study.

However, in the framework of the Bologna Process and the European Higher Education Area, a text was adopted during the last ministerial conference in which all Bologna Process members commit themselves to provide mobility opportunities for students and staff from conflict areas.

Taking the above factors into consideration, I would like to ask:

1. On what basis have students and teachers from Nagorno-Karabakh been excluded from the EU educational exchange programmes?

In addition, given that the Commission is a full member of the Bologna Process and that the above-mentioned text – the Yerevan Communiqué – was adopted back in May 2015:

2. When does the Commission plan to implement those recommendations and include students and education professionals from Nagorno-Karabakh in EU exchange programmes?