

**Question for written answer E-001487/2016  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Viorica Dăncilă (S&D)**

Subject: Kindergartens in rural areas

In recent years, there has been a growing trend in a number of Member States for people to live on the outskirts of large cities or in rural areas outside densely populated conurbations. The new arrivals frequently modify the population balance of rural areas, as well as their way of life and daily routines. At the same time, it is not always possible to provide all the necessary basic services.

Facilities in rural areas for children under the age of six are frequently inadequate in terms of both quality and quantity, as are other services for families with young children.

In view of this:

What approach is being considered by the Commission and the Member States with a view to improving access to facilities for children of school and preschool age in rural areas, in line with current social and demographic trends, and ensure that these areas are able to absorb newcomers and provide them with adequate services?