

**Question for written answer E-003860/2016  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Bringing the EU closer to the grassroots

Public esteem for the EU is currently on the wane. It is frequently regarded as remote from everyday reality and some of its decisions receive a very bad press. The situation has now come to a head with plans by the UK to hold a referendum on whether or not to leave.

In view of this:

1. Can the Commission launch a programme designed to raise awareness of the EU in schools and universities, involving one-week annual visits by EU officials or representatives to discuss the Union, how it works, its specific policies and the advantages of EU membership?
2. In Romania, for example, secondary and upper secondary school syllabuses include a number of 'extracurricular weeks'. Would it be possible for the Commission, in partnership with these schools, to introduce scheme for raising grassroots awareness of the EU by organising information sessions during the weeks in question?