

**Question for written answer E-003919/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: 'Odysseus' and reforming the European Voluntary Service

The European Voluntary Service (EVS) has been one of the EU's most successful programmes in promoting European citizenship and solidarity, in forging closer ties between the peoples of Europe and in fostering a collective sense of belonging.

The EVS, however, does not have a high enough profile among young people in Europe, as shown by the extremely low participation figures for the programme.

This could be attributable to a lack of information on the EVS, which, if so, could be remedied by radio, television and billboard advertisements. But there are also barriers to participation, such as those outlined on page 18 of the document entitled '*Odysseus – Una proposta di servizio civile europeo per reinventare l'Europa*', presented by the Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi on 17 March 2016.

What has the Commission done to publicise the EVS on television, radio and billboards and thereby to encourage young people to take part in it?

Does the Commission take the view that the proposed 'Odysseus' programme could be of use in updating and improving the EVS, including by renaming it? And does the Commission not think that the EVS needs to be linked to a project or partnership in order to achieve this?