

**Question for written answer E-007110/2016  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Jonás Fernández (S&D), Eider Gardiazabal Rubial (S&D), Ramón Jáuregui Atondo (S&D) and  
Juan Fernando López Aguilar (S&D)**

Subject:     Setting up the European Solidarity Corps

In his State of the Union Address on 14 September 2016 President Juncker announced the intention of setting up a European Solidarity Corps, in which ‘Young people across the EU ... [would] be able to volunteer their help where it ... [was] needed most, to respond to crisis situations, like the refugee crisis or the recent earthquakes in Italy’.

According to the President, this body could be up and running by the end of 2016, and, by the end of 2020, about 100 000 young Europeans under 30 could be taking part.

There is already an organisation, European Voluntary Service (EVS), which handles foreign travel arrangements for young people between 17 and 30 wishing to participate in volunteering projects. Apparently, then, there are to be two programmes pursuing the same goals and aimed at the same target group, namely young people.

Could the Commission explain what would be the differences between these two volunteer corps?

Does it not believe that it would be better to boost the existing EVS by means of the ‘Odysseus’ proposal and by expanding its remit to include humanitarian tasks?