

**Question for written answer E-007570/2016**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Mariya Gabriel (PPE)**

Subject: Erasmus+ for the Southern Mediterranean region

Reinforced cultural and educational cooperation with Southern Mediterranean countries is extremely important if efforts to combat terrorism and various types of radicalism are to produce results. Education is a key factor in the establishment of stable democracies and it enhances young people's life chances. It is therefore important that the Commission should encourage cultural and academic exchange with partner countries in the Southern Mediterranean region and support their participation in Erasmus+, the European Union programme for education, training, youth and sport.

Several questions arise in this connection.

1. Is the Commission planning measures to publicise the opportunities that the Erasmus+ programme for student mobility and vocational training abroad can offer Southern Mediterranean countries, with a view to enabling more people from the region to benefit from it?
2. Does the Commission intend to put additional resources into programmes for cultural and academic exchange with Southern Mediterranean partner countries?
3. Is the Commission planning to act on the European Parliament's proposal for the creation of a Euro-Mediterranean Erasmus programme distinct from the Erasmus+ programme?