

**Question for written answer E-007724/2016  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Data collection on the ethnic origin of students: European Social Fund

The European Social Fund operational programmes for the period 2014-2020 constitute the roadmap for the fulfilment of ESF objectives, one of which is promoting social inclusion. The operational programme for Catalonia falls under one of the four core lines of action for this period.

In accordance with the 'Guidelines for the monitoring, verification and certification of lifelong education activities cofinanced under the European Social Fund operational programme for Catalonia for the period 2014-2020', every student is required to fill in, sign and submit a form at the beginning of their course. In that form, they are asked to specify, among other details, whether they are 'of Roma ethnicity' and whether they are a 'Migrant or of foreign descent', despite this information having no clear relevance or purpose.

Directive 95/46/EC stipulates that 'the Member States shall prohibit the processing of personal data revealing racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, trade-union membership, and the processing of data concerning health or sex life'.

What measures will the Commission take in the face of the violation of Directive 95/46/EC under one of the European Social Fund operational programmes?