

Question for written answer E-009142/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
Edward Czesak (ECR)

Subject: Higher education in Belarus

The main aim of the Bologna Declaration is to establish a European Higher Education Area and to improve the coordination of education and training for Europe's workforce. By implementing the commitments set out in the declaration, the signatories can improve educational standards and broaden the range of opportunities available to students. The introduction of a system based on harmonised standards is a major step forward, as it will result in more uniform educational standards in Europe's higher education establishments and enhance student mobility by providing greater opportunities to study in other countries. Belarus joined the Bologna Process in 2015 and committed itself to reforming its higher education system by 2018. According to independent reports, however, almost nothing has been done to date. Owing to the current lack of progress and the delays resulting from the authorities' failure to take the necessary action, the prospect of the reforms being carried out is currently extremely slim.

Will the Commission seek to step up dialogue with the Belarusian authorities on implementing the necessary higher education reforms?

Does it intend to put in place monitoring measures and issue recommendations with a view to ensuring effective implementation of the measures introduced?

What steps will it take to improve the Bologna system so as to make it as effective as possible?