

**Question for written answer E-006495/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Tania González Peñas (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Council Recommendation: education

The Council Recommendation on the 2017 National Reform Programme of Spain issued by the Commission several months ago paints a sorry picture of the country's education system in its recital 14, mentioning amongst other things that Spain's early school leaving rate is one of the highest in the EU. But education is not only a factor that determines labour productivity, understood to mean private profit. It also determines social profit by encouraging innovation and develops people's self-fulfilment and the kind of critical thought that acts as the safeguard of a thriving democracy. These factors are no less important but are never mentioned in official documents of this kind.

This backdrop confirms the need for the Spanish government to give schools the resources they need to provide a high-quality public education system. Spain's expenditure per pupil is below the averages of both the OECD and the EU22, and the spending cuts carried out in the period 2009-2013, often at the Commission's recommendation, have pushed us even further back, forcing thousands of teachers out of their jobs, putting public sector staff in a position of insecurity and increasing the student-teacher ratio.

1. How can the Commission hope to turn this situation around if it insists on public spending cuts?
2. Does it now perhaps recommend a more progressive fiscal policy?