

**Question for written answer E-005324/2018/rev.1  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**André Elissen (ENF)**

Subject: Yet more tax revenue used for shameless promotion of the EU

Three months ago some written questions were put to the Commission concerning shameless promotion of the EU, inter alia by giving away so-called 'free' rail passes to 18-year-olds in the European Union<sup>1</sup>. Initially 15 000 passes were handed out. It has now been revealed that another large batch of rail passes, this time numbering 12 000, is to be distributed among Europe's young people. All this is supposedly intended to counter 'misinformation about Europe' and the 'rise of populism'.

1. Is it true that from now until 2027 no less than EUR 700 million will be wasted on giving out so-called 'free' rail passes to 18-year-olds in the European Union?
2. Can the Commission give an overview of the breakdown per country of these passes?
3. Why is the website on which young people can apply for the pass also available in the language of a dictatorial and intolerant regime such as Turkey, a country that must never join the Union?

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<sup>1</sup> "Nieuwe ronde voor gratis reizen 18-jarigen", [https://www.europa-nu.nl/id/vksohmzchky2/nieuws/nieuwe\\_ronde\\_voor\\_gratis\\_reizen\\_18?ctx=vh6ukzb3nnt0&tab=0](https://www.europa-nu.nl/id/vksohmzchky2/nieuws/nieuwe_ronde_voor_gratis_reizen_18?ctx=vh6ukzb3nnt0&tab=0)