

**Question for written answer E-001718/2019
to the Commission**

Rule 130

David McAllister (PPE) and Jens Gieseke (PPE)

Subject: Cross-border cooperation between the Netherlands and Lower Saxony

For more than 50 years, close and friendly relations have existed between the Netherlands and the German State of Lower Saxony. Cooperation at all political levels has increasingly made the state border and the different national languages seem relatively unimportant for the exchange of goods, services and labour.

However, differences in spatial, infrastructure and development planning, in the recognition of professional qualifications and in state administrative structures continue to stand in the way of more far-reaching cross-border cooperation.

- 1) What strategy does the Commission consider should the Germany-Netherlands Interreg programme pursue and what level of European funding should be allocated to it in order to continue the programme between 2021 and 2027 in the areas presently covered?
- 2) By advising citizens, the Euregio has been working for decades to promote the mobility of workers in a cross-border labour market between Germany and the Netherlands. How and in what specific areas, in the Commission's view, should the provision of advisory services for cross-border commuters in the Euregio labour market be financed on a multiannual basis outside the Interreg funding programme beyond 2020?
- 3) In the Commission's view, how can educational cooperation between the Netherlands and Lower Saxony, be optimally developed? Such cooperation would include the Europa schools (schools focused on intercultural cooperation) in the border region and the possible establishment of Euregio-integrated schools based on the North Rhine-Westphalian model.