

**Question for written answer E-002198/2019
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Daniel Buda (PPE)

Subject: Reduction in the number of agricultural classes

The decision by the Ministry of Education to reduce the number of agricultural classes, at this point during a period of high school admissions, shows the government's incapacity to understand the importance of the agricultural high schools in training specialists in a European Member State.

Romania needs agricultural high schools, specialising in horticulture, veterinary medicine and even gastronomy, so that we can face the realities of the national and European markets. Such high schools can complement the vocational schools, without excluding one another. Agriculture needs specialists and these high schools are a real source of young people who want to stay in the country and work in this sector.

Unfortunately, pupils in the agricultural high schools in Romania study from re-used educational materials, as, at present, in Romania, there are no new handbooks in this field, and this is due to the fact that the printing houses say it is not profitable to print a few dozen copies of a handbook. Moreover, in the practical classes, old and obsolete equipment is used, which dates back to the Communist era, and which have nothing to do with the means and methods used in agriculture today.

What is the Commission's opinion regarding the decision by national authorities to reduce the number of agricultural classes?