

**Question for oral answer O-000010/2018
to the Commission**

Rule 128

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Subject: Recognition of school study periods abroad

Pupils are mobile within the EU, reflecting either family situations or participation in various exchange programmes. Learning mobility at school age helps young people acquire basic life skills and transversal competences, contributing to their personal development, employability and active European citizenship. Article 165 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union states that Union action shall be aimed at 'encouraging mobility of students and teachers, by encouraging, inter alia, the academic recognition of diplomas and periods of study'.

This notwithstanding, many Member States do not recognise school periods spent abroad, especially if they do not result in school diplomas matching the European Qualifications Framework (EQF). The lack of an enabling policy environment poses a major obstacle to the mobility of pupils (and of families with school-age children), who subsequently need to attend one or more additional years of school when they return to their home countries.

While we welcome the proposal for a Council Recommendation on the mutual recognition of higher education and school leaving diplomas/study periods abroad, as included in the Commission's Communication "Strengthening European Identity through Education and Culture" (14 November 2017), we would like to raise the following questions:

- How does the Commission plan to ensure that the Council Recommendation includes pupils whose studies abroad have not resulted in a qualification or diploma?
- What recognition system, or systems, for school study periods abroad are being considered?
- Does the Commission plan to consider the successful examples of Italy and Austria, where study periods not exceeding 12 months are recognised without any additional exam or transfer of credits?

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