**Julie Ward (S&D).** – Mr President, the Erasmus programme is already responsible for millions of friendships, love affairs and even babies, as it has provided the means for young people to spread their wings and look beyond borders to learn more about themselves and others through immersion in formal and informal education with peers from across Europe. We all know about the Erasmus opportunities for students to study in universities outside their Member States, but few politicians seem to know about the extraordinary youth programmes that transform the lives of disadvantaged youth. For example, the people with learning difficulties from Headway Arts in Blyth, Northumberland, who’ve been exchanging ideas and best practices with European partners, growing in confidence as a result and achieving dignity when their own government threw them on the scrapheap. Another example are the autistic students from Inscape School in Stockport who returned from their Erasmus project to set up social enterprises, including a café. I met these young people and all are dismayed at the inward-looking direction of the UK Government who would deny them a European future. Young people will not forgive those who enable Brexit.