

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1442/07
by Karin Resetarits (ALDE)
to the Commission

Subject: Participation of Northern Cyprus universities in the Bologna process and Erasmus

The American University of Girne from Northern Cyprus recently applied to participate in the Erasmus programme 2007-2013.

As you know, Northern Cyprus universities are currently not part of the Erasmus programme although they are citizens of the European Union. Will the Commission accept their request or will you continue this isolation?

Access to education is a fundamental right for citizens of the European Union.

We all know that the situation there is very complicated. I would like to invite you to organise a fact-finding mission so that the European decision makers see that this concerns the second largest economic factor in the North and if we continue to keep them out of the Erasmus programme and the Bologna process this will lead to a breakdown of the system. We only have until 2010 to solve this problem.