

WRITTEN QUESTION E-4876/08
by Marco Rizzo (GUE/NGL)
to the Commission

Subject: Education in Italy

The recently submitted budget package under discussion in Italy provides for around 89 000 job cuts among permanent teaching staff and some 200 000 job losses in all when non-permanent and auxiliary staff are taken into account. The Italian education system has been experiencing problems for some years now. University and research facilities are failing to provide adequate training and to make the best students wish to stay in Italy instead of going abroad, where they will have better career prospects. The situation in schools is also alarming: drop-out rates among children of compulsory-schooling age are intolerably high (particularly in central southern Italy) and various support programmes for the most disadvantaged students (e.g. those with disabilities) are no longer being funded. The Province of Cagliari, where staffing levels have been cut by some 56% in areas where almost all of the students are drawn from the poorest districts of Cagliari, provides a glaring example of the current problems.

1. Is the Commission aware of the serious situation in the Italian education sector?
2. Would it agree that it should approach the Italian Government with a view to ensuring that minimum educational standards are met?
3. Would it not agree that the steady reduction in education funding for the most disadvantaged areas of Italy is tantamount to a breach of human rights?