

**Question for written answer E-6115/2010
to the Council**
Rule 117
Christophe Béchu (PPE)

Subject: Extending the Erasmus Programme to include traineeships

The university exchange programme Erasmus (European Regional Action Scheme for the Mobility of University Students) has, since 1987, enabled an ever-increasing number of young European students to continue their higher education in one of the 30 countries of the European Economic Area (EEA).

Being an Erasmus student means, above all, taking a big step towards independence. One of the greatest challenges for a student is to live far from the people and places one knows best. It also means adapting to a new culture, understanding it, learning to converse daily in another language and, especially, living with young people from all over Europe.

However, it is an experience limited in time and space, and one only available to students and teachers. While undeniably benefiting those who participate in it, the Erasmus Programme is insufficient when it comes to their pursuing the objectives of intellectual and linguistic openness and strengthening awareness of Europe and interdependency between the peoples of EU.

It would be very worthwhile, in addition and in parallel to the Erasmus Programme, to develop a standard Europe-wide traineeship platform. Young graduates often suffer from a shortage of practical skills when it comes to finding a first job. The chance of acquiring temporary job experience outside their home country would be a great asset for their future.

What is the Commission's position on the proposal for a joint programme to promote traineeships in Europe?