

**Question for written answer E-005133/2011
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Cătălin Sorin Ivan (S&D)

Subject: Merging of educational establishments

The objective of the Europa 2020 Strategy is to reduce school drop-out rates to below 10% and increase the number of qualified school-leavers by at least 40%. In other words education is a priority.

About 70 teaching establishments in Bucharest, including kindergartens, primary schools and secondary schools are to be merged at the beginning of the 2011-2012 academic year. Most of the mergers will involve kindergartens, of which there are not very many in Bucharest as it is. Such a reduction in the number of teaching establishments is likely to compromise achievement of the Europa 2020 Strategy objectives.

In view of this, what view does the Commission take of government plans to merge and reduce the number of teaching establishments? How will it be possible to achieve the objectives of the Europa 2020 Strategy in this way?