

**Question for written answer E-011122/2011
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Ilda Figueiredo (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Cultural diversity and mobility

Protecting cultural diversity and mobility in the European Union entails supporting mother-tongue language teaching for children of migrants in the Member States.

Regrettably, as associations of Portuguese migrants in various European Union countries have been reporting, Portuguese teaching is currently under serious threat, since the Portuguese government has announced that it intends to cut 50 teaching posts by the end of 2011, affecting around 5000 pupils. There has been talk of the possibility of a further 200 teaching posts being cut in the next school year. This will jeopardise Portuguese language teaching for 20 000 pupils, almost half of the current network of teaching provided for Portuguese communities.

In this context, can the Commission say what measures exist to provide support for mother-tongue language teaching for the children of European citizens living in countries other than their own, as a way of safeguarding cultural diversity and not jeopardising the much sought-after mobility?