

**Question for written answer E-001545/2013
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Liam Aylward (ALDE)

Subject: The Erasmus Programme is facing a budget deficit

The Erasmus programme is an aspect of the European Union's Lifelong Learning Programme and approximately 45% of the Lifelong Learning Programme's budget is allocated to it. By the end of the academic year 2012-2013 three million students will have participated in the Erasmus scheme since it was first established 25 years ago. Owing to the uncertainty surrounding the future of the Multiannual Financial Framework for the period 2014-2020 the Commission has announced there may be a budget deficit of EUR 90 million this year.

As a result of this budget deficit, there will be a reduction in the number of places available on Erasmus programmes and it is most likely students from disadvantaged areas who will be adversely affected. Could the Commission provide figures concerning the number of students who will be affected by this deficit and information regarding what is being done to give this issue priority?