

**Question for written answer E-001830/2013
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Salvatore Iacolino (PPE)

Subject: Opportunity for students living abroad to exercise their right to vote

Italian law provides that Italians temporarily resident abroad belonging to the armed forces and international police missions, employees of State departments located outside Italy for work-related reasons and university professors and researchers may vote by post. Even for the above-mentioned categories of citizens temporarily resident abroad Italy does not yet have an electronic voting system to meet growing mobility needs and to respond to the increasingly established use of IT systems.

Despite the Italian Government's efforts, when the elections are held on 24 and 25 February 2013 to elect a new Chamber of Deputies and Senate of the Italian Republic, there will be approximately 25 000 Italian Erasmus students who will not be able to exercise their right to vote, in addition to the tens of thousands of Italian students who are enrolled as ordinary students at universities of other Member States.

Since over 230 000 European students take part every year in international programmes coordinated between universities, and in view of forthcoming electoral responsibilities such as the European elections in 2014:

- Could the Commission clarify the situation for students from other Member States enrolled on courses abroad?
- Can the Commission say whether there are good national practices that could be rolled out to other Member States for the forthcoming electoral contests, including e-voting systems?
- Will it be possible in the future to lay down at European level consistent procedures to allow all students resident abroad to exercise their right to vote?