

**Question for written answer E-003267/2013  
to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**Martin Kastler (PPE)**

Subject: Reductions in confessional religious education at European schools

The European Union, 'conscious of its spiritual and moral heritage', is 'based on common values'. That is what is stated in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, which also, in Article 10, guarantees everyone 'the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion' and 'freedom ... to manifest religion or belief, in worship, teaching, practice and observance'.

Accordingly, the rules of the 14 existing European schools provide for confessional religious education as a proper subject, for which there is a guarantee that the content is provided in the mother tongue and mother tongue staff are recruited, in agreement with the 'religious authorities' of the churches and religious communities.

1. Is it true that, in the context of the secondary reform, the Board of Governors of the European Schools has proposed a 50 % reduction in religious education in years 1-3 and its complete removal in years 6 and 7?
2. Are the competent bodies of the Commission aware of these plans? Is there support for such an undertaking?