

**Question for written answer E-004146/2013
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: Systems for grading educational attainment in the European Union

Nowadays, a great many students decide, after completing secondary school, to go abroad for higher education in another EU Member State. When it comes to assessing a potential student, foreign universities are often uncertain how to interpret their secondary school certificates and how well they correspond to requirements, as nearly every Member State has a different system for grading educational attainment. The same problem also faces students who, after graduating from higher education, wish to continue their studies at the next highest level at a university in another Member State.

For example, if in one country '5' means 'excellent', in another country it means 'average', while in another country again it denotes failure. Because of the differences of assessment, misunderstandings also arise during studies, affecting both students and teachers, as students cannot fully compare different countries' grading systems and at times they do not understand the value to be attached to certificates obtained abroad in relation to the grading system of their own country.

Does the Commission agree that it is necessary to integrate the educational grading systems of the various European Union Member States?

Has the Commission considered establishing a system for the comparison of qualifications, which would make it possible to calculate the value of diplomas in the various EU Member States by means of a harmonised system?