

**Question for written answer E-008579/2013  
to the Commission**

Rule 117

**Monika Panayotova (PPE)**

Subject: The potential of volunteering to make young people more competitive in the labour market

With regard to the 2011 European Year of Volunteering and the Commission report on it of December 2012 (COM(2012) 781 final), there are a number of questions in relation to the survey that the Commission conducted and the results obtained, which could inform the current debate about young people's education and employability.

1. What is the Commission's assessment of the European Year of Volunteering? Does it consider that the year produced lasting achievements that will have a long-term influence? Can the Commission point to initiatives that it has taken in relation to volunteering since 2011? Is there a uniform system whereby Member States can exchange ideas about successful volunteering practice and activities?
2. Volunteering has the potential to foster transverse and soft skills which young people may not be able to develop fully in the context of conventional education. Against the backdrop of the current debate about making young people more competitive in the labour market and improving their chances of finding jobs by adapting and reforming the education system to reflect trends in labour demand, volunteering may offer a distinct form of added value.

Does the Commission therefore intend to draw the attention of those countries concerned to the untapped potential of volunteering in terms of young people's skills development? Are any practical initiatives planned in this regard? How and in what form could volunteering be integrated into school curricula?