

**Question for written answer E-010582/2013**  
**to the Council**  
Rule 117  
**Katarína Neveďalová (S&D)**

Subject:     Fostering a culture of democratic participation within the EU

At the 2009 European elections, the participation of citizens under the age of 24 was just 29 %, which is significantly lower than the participation of those over the age of 24. This low turnout is a sign of the democratic deficit among young people across the EU, with young EU citizens not being represented in proportion to their numbers.

Studies show a correlation between early and lifelong electoral participation, demonstrating the importance of early citizenship education.

In view of the upcoming European Parliament elections, could the Council specify the measures it intends to take in order to reach out to young first-time voters before they have the right to vote, so as to foster a culture of democratic participation at an earlier age?