

**Question for written answer E-012303/2013  
to the Commission  
Rule 117  
Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou (PPE)**

Subject: Entrepreneurship in European education

Stefan Theil's report 'Europe's Philosophy of Failure',<sup>1</sup> published by the Institute of Public Affairs, arrives at the conclusion, based on specific examples from the French and German educational systems and statistical surveys, that entrepreneurship is being stifled in Europe from the very first stages of education. At the same time, according to a Eurobarometer survey,<sup>2</sup> the majority of Europeans who have never started a business (58 %) said that it had never crossed their mind to do so and 76 % of European citizens have never taken part in a course or activity about entrepreneurship. The same survey identified serious inequalities between the Member States in terms of school education and the interest it gave interviewees in becoming entrepreneurs. The European Union stresses the importance of including entrepreneurship at all levels of education in its Entrepreneurship 2020 Action Plan and 'Rethinking Education' report, in line with its objective that all young people should benefit from at least one business internship before completing their education.<sup>3</sup>

In view of this, will the Commission say:

- a) What is its assessment of the findings and conclusions of the Institute of Public Affairs report?
- b) Apart from the practical learning and enterprise links in European education institutions referred to in the report 'A Guide for Educators', does it have data on which European states are lagging behind in terms of learning and enterprise links? Does it have data on inequalities between the Member States and the degree to which they are lagging behind third countries (sectors, countries)?
- c) What are Europe's biggest problems in terms of the preconditions to support for business education presented in the aforementioned report? How are education policies being affected by fiscal efforts and how does the EU intend to react in order to improve national educational systems?

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.ipa.org.au/library/publication/1210833458\\_document\\_60-1\\_theil.pdf](http://www.ipa.org.au/library/publication/1210833458_document_60-1_theil.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/public\\_opinion/flash/fl\\_354\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/flash/fl_354_en.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sme/promoting-entrepreneurship/files/education/entred-manual-fv\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sme/promoting-entrepreneurship/files/education/entred-manual-fv_en.pdf)