

**Question for written answer E-001532/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: The issue of skills supply and demand on the EU labour market

Serious problems faced by the European Union relating to high unemployment, especially among young people, include the gap between the skills supply and demand on the labour market. Skills offered to young people by universities, as well as the education system as a whole, simply do not correspond to the skills required by the current research and labour market. Despite sky-high unemployment, there are many sectors in our economy which are lacking in manpower. In information and communication technology, for example, there are around 70 000 job vacancies in the European Union.

What specific measures is the Commission planning to adopt in the near future to bring the supply of skills into line with demand on the EU's labour market, and to strengthen its competitiveness overall?