

**Question for written answer E-006949/2014**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Herbert Reul (PPE)**

Subject: Promoting reading in the Member States

The ability to read is one of the basic skills required for coping with life in today's world. Reading needs to be taught in childhood: children who are not shown how to read, have already missed out, at an early age and through no fault of their own, on any chance of participation in modern society.

There are various approaches to the promotion of reading and to the development of a reading culture.

1. Does the Commission have data on the ways in which reading is taught in the 28 EU Member States and how a reading culture is promoted, and on any particularly promising Member State initiatives in this field?
2. Do other Member States have institutions comparable to the German reading foundation, Stiftung Lesen, of which the President of Germany is a patron?
3. Has the Commission taken measures in the past to promote reading in the European Union?