

**Question for written answer E-005728/2016/rev.1  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Silvia Costa (S&D) and Michael Cramer (Verts/ALE)**

Subject: Criteria for safeguarding and protecting the safety of Erasmus students

On 20 March 2016, 13 girls who were enrolled in the Erasmus+ programme at the University of Barcelona lost their lives aboard a bus returning from a trip to Valencia.

The trip was advertised on the website of the ESN Barcelona section of ESN International, which receives financial support from the Commission, and planned two five-hour shifts for each driver, with only one driver per bus in a convoy of five, within a 24-hour period.

A criminal investigation is underway in Spain and the driver and the bus company will maybe be charged with manslaughter.

Taking into account the above, has the Commission checked with the relevant Member State whether:

1. The driver and the bus company fully satisfied European safety requirements?
2. Any specific measures have been adopted to ensure that such tragic events are not repeated?

Finally, what steps has the Commission taken, or will it take, to assess the application and harmonisation of European legislation with regard to bus companies (e.g. the requirement to have a second driver, their suitability for driving and the respect of rest times) and insurance standards?