

**Question for written answer E-001162/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Disparities between countries arising from automation

The ongoing development of robotics and artificial intelligence raises legal and ethical issues relating to new technology and the changing social environment. Automation requires States to invest in education and other reforms in order to develop the types of skills that the workers of tomorrow will need.

Between 2010 and 2014 the average increase in sales of robots stood at 17% per year and in 2014 sales rose by 29%. According to the Commission's forecast, by 2020 Europe might be facing a shortage of up to 825 000 ICT professionals, and 90% of jobs will require at least basic digital skills.

If, and because, the equitable distribution of the benefits of robotics and artificial intelligence is one of the principles to be applied, how have the disparities among the various countries with regard to education and resources been taken into account in this context? How will the Commission prevent disparities from arising between Member States because of robotics?