

**Question for written answer E-002179/2019
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Daniel Buda (PPE)

Subject: Romania's very high school-leaving rate

According to statistics published by the Commission, Romania's school-leaving rate is very high, standing at 6% above the European average. This means, for example, that only 29% of Romanians possess any digital skills, compared with 58% of people elsewhere in Europe.

Low investment in education, the high risk of poverty and a shortage of skilled teachers are just some of the reasons that students drop out of school. The rise in the number of students leaving school has resulted in an increase in youth unemployment, sustained poverty and dependence on State aid. As long as students are at risk of poverty, they are not motivated to stay in school.

What tools does the Commission have at its disposal to tackle the problem of students dropping out of school in Europe?