

**Question for written answer E-002530/2019  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Kostas Papadakis (NI) and Lefteris Nikolaou-Alavanos (NI)**

Subject: Vote on the abolition of academic sanctuary in universities

The New Democracy Government is currently seeking the abolition of academic sanctuary in universities, the stated purpose being to curb lawlessness, which could, however, be achieved quite adequately within the existing legal framework.

The proposed measure, which would allow the authorities to enforce their statutory powers on university premises also, would in fact lead to more widespread repression, thereby undermining individual freedoms at the grass roots. The present Government, following on from its SYRIZA predecessor, is seeking to throw a 'veil of deathly silence' over moves to give the business sector free rein in universities, converting them into business team research centres, introducing new degree categories and imposing postgraduate tuition fees.

Moves in this direction are related to the recommendations contained in the European Commission's third Enhanced Surveillance Report on 'the need to make tertiary education more relevant for the labour market' and the Europe 2020 strategy of inclusive growth through more effective investment in education, research and innovation, requiring even closer links with the business sector, accompanied by a clampdown on student and worker militancy. The removal of academic sanctuary is effectively helping the EU and national governments to ensure 'unrestricted university admission' for monopolies while making it much harder for working-class students to get in.

In view of this:

Can the Commission say how the removal of academic sanctuary squares with the values of the much-vaunted European Higher Education Area?