

**Question for written answer E-003316/2019/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Failure to appoint a Commissioner with specific responsibility for scientific research and education

When the portfolios in the new Commission were handed out, Commissioner-designate Gabriel was given responsibility for 'Innovation and Youth' which, even though not specifically mentioned in the title of the portfolio assigned to her, also covers the strategic areas of scientific research and education.

In an open letter entitled 'Future of Research', more than 6 000 European academics, including the Nobel Prize winner Carlo Rubbia, also expressed concern at the fact that these priority areas are not at the heart of the Commissioner-designate's programme.

When pressed several times on this matter at her hearing in Parliament on 30 September 2019, the Commissioner-designate gave a pro forma pledge that attention would be paid to scientific research and education, without however going into detail about specific measures.

Due note should also be taken of the mission letter sent by President-elect Ursula von der Leyen to the Commissioner-designate, which stressed that 'education, research and innovation will hold the key to our competitiveness'.

1. How will the Commission oversee the future programme in this field?
2. What specific legislative measures will it take to ensure that research policy does not focus solely on the potential economic benefits of research and to revitalise at the same time lifelong professional training?