

**Question for written answer E-000788/2020
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Laura Ferrara (NI)

Subject: Day nurseries in Calabria

Following the adoption in 2002 of the 'Barcelona targets' agreed by the European Council for availability of childcare facilities, the Commission encouraged Member States to improve access to childcare services for young children so that by 2010 there would be places for at least 33 % of children under the age of three.

Subsequently, with the publication of its 2013 Recommendation 'Investing in children: breaking the cycle of disadvantage', the Commission called on Member States to step up their investment in childcare services to make them accessible, affordable, sufficient in number and of good quality.

Notwithstanding all this encouragement by the Commission, Italy has still not, even after all these years, achieved the 33 % target: the national average is, in fact, 24.7 % (Istat 2017) and there are still huge differences between the north and south of the country.

Calabria, in particular, has one of the worst ratios: compared to the target population, the number of childcare places available equates to approximately 10 % of children under three years old.

This being so, can the Commission say:

1. What sums were earmarked for investment in day nurseries in the Calabria 2014-2020 regional operational programme?
2. What sums have already been spent on childcare services, and notified to the Commission, under the Calabria 2014-2020 regional operational programme?
3. How does it plan to bridge the gap with other Italian and EU regions?