

**Question for written answer E-001014/2020
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Christine Anderson (ID)

Subject: Cultural conflict in the classroom

In an interview with 'Deutsche Welle', ¹ Commissioner Mariya Gabriel said, in response to a question on the priorities of her second term in office: 'And in the middle you have culture, which – in the words of Commission President Ursula von der Leyen – is the soul of Europe. We must safeguard our cultural heritage and our identity.'

In her book entitled 'Cultural Struggle in the Classroom', Susanne Wiesinger, a teacher in Vienna, writes that Muslim pupils with strictly conservative and even fundamentalist ideas now form the absolute majority. She is critical of bending over backwards in the name of 'consideration for religion'. She goes on to state that: 'They talked to us teachers and tried to persuade us to welcome the idea of Muslim pupils being allowed to leave the classroom at prayer time. The suggestion has already been acted upon in some schools. Muslim pupils have their own prayer rooms.'

How can such a position, which is evident in a number of Member States, in particular France, Germany and Austria, be compatible with the European identity and its enlightened Christian nature if it leads to this kind of cultural conflict in the classroom?

¹ <https://www.dw.com/de/eu-kommissarin-gabriel-der-brain-drain-ist-eine-riesige-herausforderung/a-51465059>