Question for written answer E-001236/2020

to the Commission

Rule 138

Predrag Fred Matić (S&D)

Subject: Reform of Erasmus programmes

The Von der Leyen Commission has reiterated that Europe needs to focus on education and research in order to compete with the USA, China, Singapore and others in these fields that drive innovation and economic growth and support the shift towards a decarbonised economy. For this reason, the European Parliament and the Commission have agreed to do their best to avoid cuts to Erasmus+ and Horizon 2020, and even to increase funding for these projects. However, some in the Council argue that, with revenue falling as a result of Brexit, cuts are due and the Erasmus+ programme is one area where cuts could be made.

I believe that the value of Erasmus+ stems from its potential to:

aid social mobility by funding the underprivileged;

help raise the prestige of European scientific forums by enabling them to attract a more versatile pool of talented individuals, and;

help foster a common European sense of identity through cultural exchanges.

However, I also acknowledge that the same individuals, members of the same social strata and the same institutions often reappear as beneficiaries of these programmes, thus undermining their mission as explained above.

How does the Commission plan to reform the Erasmus, Erasmus+ and Erasmus Mundus programmes so that they can achieve their full potential?