

**Question for written answer E-003294/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Brando Benifei (S&D)

Subject: Intimidating interrogation of students in Poland concerning their complaint against Professor Budzyńska for homophobia

In March 2019 some students in Poland accused Professor Ewa Budzyńska of the University of Silesia of being intolerant and homophobic in her attitudes.

On 8 January 2020 the students filed an official complaint, stating that Professor Budzyńska's lessons promoted 'anti-abortion ideology, homophobic views, anti-Semitism, denominational discrimination and information that is incompatible with modern scientific knowledge'.

The university responded by issuing the Professor with an official warning. She protested at this, supported by professedly anti-LGBTQI organisations and media. Even the Prime Minister has said on Twitter that he is following the case.

On 24 May, some of the students were questioned by the police for hours in a police station near the university. They were not given any official information or grounds for their being questioned. The Centre for Monitoring Racist and Xenophobic Behaviour, which is giving the students legal support, described them as very shaken when they left. The Centre said: 'Rather than a standard move in an investigation, this seems to have been an interrogation designed to intimidate'.

1. Is the Commission aware of the case and what is its opinion of political support for police practices designed to intimidate young students and activists?
2. What action will the Commission take to rebuild trust and cohesiveness in citizens regarding respect for everyone's fundamental rights and enforcement of the rule of law in Poland?