

**Question for written answer E-005259/2020  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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**Subject:** Inclusive education and not substituting lifelong learning with digital education

Since education is a competence of Member States, which have each been affected by, and responded to, COVID-19 differently, the approach with regard to reopening schools has varied. As a consequence, pupils are not being educated at the same rate, undermining Article 14 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union on access to compulsory education free of charge.

In view of this:

1. As digital education is increasingly becoming the education of choice, does the Commission intend to adopt measures (a) so that students without the necessary equipment and/or broadband have equal access to education, and (b) to ensure that lifelong learning is not replaced by distance learning, which is a risk identified by UNESCO and will result in a loss of social skills for children, which is the primary purpose of education at school?
2. Does the Commission intend to adopt measures to safeguard inclusive education and the right of access to free compulsory education (Article 14 CFREU) when, according to the Commission's own study, advances in the digital education infrastructure differ between public and private education?
3. Does the Commission intend to allocate funding to schools so that existing equipment can be strengthened, staff supported and more information on how to combat the pandemic provided?