

**Question for written answer E-005324/2020/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Robert Biedroń (S&D)

Subject: Appointment of Przemysław Czarnek as Poland's education minister

Przemysław Czarnek, a Polish MP, has been appointed minister for education and science during a reshuffle of the country's Cabinet. This is outrageous, as appointing Mr Czarnek constitutes a clear failure to respect the values enshrined in Article 2 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU). The minister who is now responsible for the education of Polish children and young people has repeatedly used discriminatory terms to refer to non-heteronormative people. He has, for example, played an active part in the discussion on so-called 'LGBT-free zones' in Poland.

The European Parliament has already commented on the legality of such discriminatory actions by local authorities in its resolution of 18 December 2019 (2019/2933(RSP), text adopted P9_TA(2019)0101), at the same time declaring them to be incompatible with EU law. It should also be noted that, in its most recent resolution on the rule of law in Poland, dated 17 September 2020, the European Parliament called on the Commission to submit a complaint on the matter to the Court of Justice of the European Union. The Commission took a similar stance by withdrawing funding from six Polish towns that had adopted resolutions on 'LGBT-free zones'.

In the light of the foregoing:

1. Is the Commission aware that Przemysław Czarnek has been appointed as Poland's minister for education and higher education?
2. Is the Commission considering freezing EU funding allocated under educational programmes in response to this?
3. Does the Commission take the view that such an appointment would constitute a breach of Article 165 of the TFEU, which lays down guidelines for the development of education?