

**Question for written answer E-006938/2020
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Daniel Buda (PPE)

Subject: 463 million children without access to distance learning during the COVID-19 crisis

The closure of schools due to the COVID-19 pandemic has left one third of pupils worldwide – or 463 million children – unable to benefit from any form of education because they lack access to equipment and technologies such as the internet, television and radio.

Across the world, 67 million pupils have been unable to access virtual education in Eastern and Southern Africa, 54 million in West and Central Africa, 37 million in the Middle East and North Africa, 80 million in the Pacific and East Asia, 147 million in South Asia, 25 million in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, and 13 million in Latin America and the Caribbean.

It is unfortunate that such an alarmingly high number of children do not have access to distance learning, which is depriving them of equal opportunities and will have a catastrophic impact on societies and economies.

What tools does the Commission have at its disposal to support pupils who do not have access to distance learning?