

**Question for written answer E-003821/2021
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Lefteris Nikolaou-Alavanos (NI)

Subject: Highly retrograde bill tabled by the Ministry of Education

The New Democracy Government in Greece has outlined an extremely retrograde education bill, provoking justified indignation among teachers, pupils and parents.

Its ostensible aim is to make schools 'autonomous' by enabling them to function on business lines. This will lead to further divisions to the detriment of working-class children.

Pupils are to receive teaching designed to enhance their skills rather than provide them with a fully rounded education. By claiming to offer greater choice, those responsible are effectively underpinning class barriers and further widening the class divide between different schools. Indeed, this regressive bill, which is in line EU and OECD strategic guidelines, will strike at the very heart of the education process,

with teachers being evaluated according to their willingness to comply and to go along with the proposed plans to undermine the quality of education.

In view of this:

1. What is the Commission's opinion of the above bill, and of corresponding moves by the EU to undermine the right of school pupils to a level educational playing field, given that education should be an opportunity for all rather than an entitlement that merely serves to exacerbate inequalities and consolidate class barriers?
2. How can it substantiate the claim that differentiated and separate education promotes equality, as opposed to being a clearly retrograde measure, treating pupils unfairly and unequally on the basis of their class origins?