

**Question for written answer E-004544/2021  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Giorgos Georgiou** (The Left)

Subject: Students from third countries

The Cypriot Council of Ministers, in Decisions Nos 89.363 of 7 May 2020 and 89.688 of 1 July 2020 imposed on private third-level education establishments, classed as higher education institutions under Article 32, section 2, item c) of the 2015 Law [L. 136 (I)/2015], a quota of 20% for enrolment of students from third countries. These Decisions affect and restrict the rights of private third-level education establishments alone, not other higher education institutions, such as private universities, in Cyprus. This constitutes discrimination, promotes unfair competition in favour of private universities and violates the laws on free market and competition.

In view of this:

1. Does the Commission agree that the Decisions of the Council of Ministers infringe the competition rules laid down in the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and the provisions of Directive (EU) 2016/801 on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of research, studies, training, voluntary service, pupil exchange schemes or educational projects and au pairing?
2. Does the Commission agree that these Decisions by the Council of Ministers constitute discrimination against third-country students, whose right to study at the higher education institution of their choice is restricted, in contrast to prospective students from Member States, thereby infringing Directive (EU) 2016/801?