

**Question for written answer E-004601/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Brando Benifei (S&D)

Subject: Participation of Switzerland in the Erasmus+ programme

Switzerland left the Erasmus+ programme in 2014 to launch a Swiss international learning mobility scheme as a replacement. Many people are deeply dissatisfied with the new scheme because of its low success rate, which was demonstrated by the recent call from Swiss students, the Swiss Rectors' Conference and the Swiss Parliament to rejoin the Erasmus programme.

However, the Swiss Government deemed it inappropriate for Switzerland to rejoin Erasmus, given that the negotiations for an Swiss-EU institutional framework agreement (InstA) are still ongoing. Rejoining Erasmus+, according to the government, would not be consistent with the more general EU-Switzerland Agreements currently in place.

Those agreements actually deal specifically and exclusively with access to the EU single market and therefore do not cover collaboration on education and research (e.g. Erasmus+ and Horizon Europe).

Taking note of all of the above:

1. Does the Commission consider Erasmus and InstA to be politically (not legally) intertwined?
2. Does it believe that the resumption of InstA talks is intended as some sort of precondition for Switzerland to rejoin Erasmus?