

**Question for written answer E-005663/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Brain drain, an increasingly prevalent phenomenon in Romania

The free movement of people is a fundamental right provided for in the EU treaty, such that citizens of the Union are free to choose where to live and work without any limitation. However, European and national authorities must ensure sustainable economic development, so that citizens who leave their regions are not forced to do so by a poor quality of life or lack of opportunities in the area where they live. Unfortunately, around 22% of Romania's highly qualified workers have left the country to work in other Member States of the European Union. In 2019, some 456 000 highly qualified Romanians were working in other EU countries.

Workers with high-level qualifications are most commonly employed in professional roles in business, administration, science, engineering or education. In the report we initiated, which has been adopted, on reversing demographic trends, I proposed a "demography agreement" that would include secondary strategies to resolve these problems, similar to the Green Deal.

What is the Commission's position on the creation of an agreement for demography, with adequate funding to reverse current demographic trends and combat brain drain?