

**Question for written answer E-002462/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Removal of bureaucratic barriers for access to pre-school education institutions

According to Eurostat data, fewer than 83% of children from the age of four are enrolled in early childhood education in some EU Member States. However, pre-school education is critical, as those who start school at an early age are able to absorb learning subjects more quickly. It also develops the habit of lifelong learning, which is essential in a digital and ever-changing society. Pre-school education is also important for children's social development, communication skills, etc.

Unfortunately, access to pre-school in the EU is often long and difficult. This is due to entrenched bureaucracy and lack of places due to underfunding of pre-school education. The lack of pre-school places is also a barrier for families who want to have more children, as they have to pay for private education, which is expensive and not affordable for all families. Moreover, in some regions, the standard of education for children is quite low.

What measures does the Commission intend to take to reduce bureaucratic obstacles to pre-school education and increase funding for children's education?