

Question for written answer E-002715/2022
to the Commission
Rule 138
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Subject: Academic freedom in the European Research Area (ERA)

The Commission has made it clear that it considers academic freedom and institutional autonomy to be fundamental principles of the Union and the ERA. It also advocates the active promotion of academic freedom in the Union's external relations. Protecting academic freedom is one of the policy actions under the ERA policy agenda. However, only 15 of the 27 Member States have committed to the ERA policy action on academic freedom, and even achieving this number required active lobbying by the Commission and the stakeholder community.

1. Considering that barely half the Member States have committed to a voluntary policy action to protect academic freedom simply by developing a monitoring system that can be used across the Union, is the Commission confident that academic freedom is well protected, both legally and politically, throughout the Union?
2. The ERA also includes countries associated with the Union's framework programme. What means does the Commission have to monitor academic freedom and ensure that it is respected in those countries?
3. Respect for academic freedom is part of the association agreements for Horizon Europe. If the Commission concludes that academic freedom in an associated country has not been not respected, would that lead to the termination of the associated status of said country?