

**Question for written answer E-000930/2023
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Ignazio Corrao (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Need to urgently increase the number of ATA staff in Sicily's state schools

Despite the fact that Sicily faces major illiteracy and school dropout issues, ATA staff¹ numbers have been cut to such an extent over the years that the school system is now inadequate.

There is an urgent need to increase the number of ATA staff in state schools to meet pupils' ordinary and extraordinary requests.

With the staff shortages, those who are employed are overburdened, having to also deal with afternoon activities, the outsourcing of cleaning and security services and, above all, fixed-term contracts being misused.

This is why the Sindacato Generale di Base requested that the Ministry of Education put in place teams of school staff large enough to cover all reception, supervision, assistance, cleaning services, and hire ATA staff currently out of work to this end. The ministry has yet to respond, however.

Its failure to act is preventing Sicily from having same quality of service as the other Italian regions, including with regard to the implementation of projects financed by the NRRP and the NOPs.

In view of the above, can the Commission say:

1. What it makes of the situation in Sicily in the light of the education-related regional convergence objectives?
2. How it can help get the Italian authorities to swiftly provide the minimum human resources required?
3. What it thinks about Italy's low level of pay for teaching and school staff compared to the EU level²?

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¹ administrative and technical auxiliary staff

² <https://eurydice.indire.it/publicazioni/teachers-and-school-heads-salaries-and-allowances-in-europe-2019-20/>