

**Question for written answer E-001507/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Beata Mazurek (ECR)

Subject: Commission support for pre-schools and schools as regards both general education and special schools

The financial framework for Poland for 2021-2027 ruled out the option of granting support to pre-schools and special schools that provide education for children and young people with disabilities.

Special schools are an integral part of the education system and fall under the general concepts of pre-schools and schools operating in the Polish system, in line with the laws governing education. They should therefore be supported on an equal footing with other schools and educational establishments.

Currently, children and adolescents attending special schools – including special schools providing vocational training – are excluded from EU support. This serves to increase the disparities between the development potential of the pupils attending those schools and that of those attending mainstream schools.

Excluding special schools from EU funding will exacerbate the development disparities affecting students with disabilities and be a factor in entrenching a situation in which they are at risk of being excluded from society and employment in the future.

Special schools provide comprehensive educational and therapeutic services that are tailored to the needs of people with a wide range of disabilities. The lack of support for special schools discriminates against persons with disabilities in Poland.

In light of the above I would like to ask the following questions:

1. Why has the Commission excluded special schools from EU financial support?
2. Does the Commission plan to re-examine the concept of support for special schools, and if so, when?

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