

**Question for written answer E-002144/2023/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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(Renew)

Subject: Access to high-quality preschool education for children from the Turkish-minority community in Western Thrace (Greece)

The Turkish community in Western Thrace, Greece has been granted autonomy in education, with the right to establish and manage its own schools. Nevertheless, due to the state's insufficient support, there has been a decline in the number of bilingual Turkish primary schools. Moreover, although 99 Turkish primary schools are in operation, there is not a single public kindergarten that is bilingual or where the medium of instruction is Turkish. Furthermore, the demands for private kindergartens have not been met.

Access to high-quality early-childhood education contributes to children's healthy development and educational success. Depriving Turkish-minority children of preschool education in their first language / mother tongue thus creates inequality in education.

1. How could the Commission better support the Member States in identifying challenges in early-childhood education and finding solutions, particularly with regard to children from a linguistic minority background?
2. How does the Commission aim to help to improve the situation in line with the Council Recommendation¹, in order to support all children in learning the language of education while also taking into account and respecting their first language?
3. What steps does the Commission intend to take to ensure that the educational rights of children belonging to the Turkish community are guaranteed, in accordance with the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and EU legislation?

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¹ Council Recommendation of 22 May 2019 on High-Quality Early Childhood Education and Care Systems (OJ C 189, 5.6.2019, p. 4).