

**Question for written answer E-003346/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Double-shift schooling in Western Thrace

In addition to issues expressed in Written Question E-002144/2023/rev.1¹, there are further problems concerning the education of the Turkish community in Western Thrace.

Double-shift schooling has been in place at Xanthi Minority Secondary School and High School for many years, but students and parents oppose it due to a lack of sufficient and suitable classrooms. A protest demonstration was held between 18 and 28 September 2023. Protesters demanded an end to double-shift schooling and a new school building, but have not yet received any response from the authorities.

1. What actions can the Commission take to protect the rights of EU citizens who are members of a national minority, ensure equal access to quality education in this region of Greece and safeguard linguistic and cultural diversity?
2. What steps can the Commission take to protect the members of the autochthonous Turkish community, whose rights, guaranteed by international treaties, are not respected and whose existence and identity are under threat?
3. What impetus can the Commission give to the Member State to improve their education systems in order to ensure that all children can benefit from high quality education, as outlined in its recommendation entitled 'Investing in children: breaking the cycle of disadvantage'²?

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¹ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2023-002144_EN.html.

² COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION of 20 February 2013 Investing in children: breaking the cycle of disadvantage (2013/112/EU).