

**Question for written answer E-000377/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: The announcement concerning establishment of private universities in Greece

The Nea Dimokratia government's announcement that it will table a bill before the Greek parliament on the establishment of non-state universities has provoked justified reactions from the nation's entire academic community. The Nea Dimokratia government has also announced that it intends to proceed with the Greek parliament's ratification of the Lisbon Convention 'on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region', which will result in de facto academic recognition of degrees from private colleges. These legal interventions are the outcome of a long-standing reactionary policy implemented by Greek governments, against the background of the EU's strategy on higher education, which serves the needs of the market, i.e. the needs of business rather than students' needs. This policy direction lies at the heart of the EU's strategy, with the Bologna Process favouring the constant alignment of higher education with short-term market needs, while the European 'Single Higher Education Area' is continually being adapted within this framework.

In the light of the foregoing, how does the Commission view the fact that the shaping of the European Higher Education Area and its policy orientations leads to abolition of the uniform system of university admission, the devaluation of university degrees, multiple categorisation of courses in the same subject, and the intensification of class barriers when astronomical fees are charged for courses?

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