Question for oral answer O-000075/2021 to the Commission
Rule 136
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on behalf of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

Subject: Empowering European youth: post-pandemic employment and social recovery

The COVID-19 pandemic is having a devastating effect on the employment and social status of young people in Europe, creating the need for immediate action to secure and improve the future and well-being of young people. Against this backdrop, President von der Leyen designated 2022 as the European Year of Youth, a year to make progress in the post-pandemic economic, employment and social recovery of young Europeans.

1. How does the Commission intend to involve young people and their representatives in the decision-making process for the employment and social inclusion policies in the EU during the European Year of Youth 2022 and beyond?

2. How does the Commission intend to report on the progress made in the implementation of the Council recommendation on the Reinforced Youth Guarantee and coordinate with the relevant stakeholders, including the civic partners, youth organisations and social partners, in the work of the Employment Committee ('EMCO')? Will the Commission set up a complimentary EU working group for the implementation of the Reinforced Youth Guarantee?

3. How will the ALMA (Aim, Learn, Master, Achieve) initiative complement and bring added value to the Reinforced Youth Guarantee? How will it ensure quality jobs, including fair remuneration, access to social protection for young people and job opportunities in their country? How does the Commission intend to reach the most vulnerable NEETs (not in employment, education or training) so that they participate in the programme?

4. How does the Commission intend to connect relevant stakeholders, including public, private sector and education sector stakeholders, in developing digital, green and entrepreneurial skills and creating quality job opportunities for young people?

5. How does the Commission intend to recognise the link between socioeconomic factors and mental health and tackle the increasing problem of mental health conditions among young people through new initiatives and updating existing programmes? How will the Commission address the mental health needs of vulnerable groups of young people?

6. How does the Commission intend to support quality, flexible, inclusive, accessible and open learning paths for better labour market inclusion of young people, especially NEETs, in existing and new programmes, such as individual learning accounts and the micro-credentials initiatives?

7. Does the Commission intend to review existing European instruments such as the Quality Framework for Traineeships and the European Framework for Quality and Effective Apprenticeships to include quality criteria for offers made to young people, including the principle of fair remuneration for trainees and interns?

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