

**Question for oral answer O-000002/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 136

Dolors Montserrat

on behalf of the Committee on Petitions

Subject: Working conditions of teachers in the European Union

High quality education was acknowledged in the European Council conclusions of 14 December 2017, a position reiterated in the Council Resolution of 26 February 2021, as being key to building inclusive, cohesive, sustainable, resilient and prosperous societies. Moreover, the Commission committed to making the European Education Area a reality by 2025 as the future of the Union is intimately linked to the education provided in schools. However, today's teaching career faces a number of challenges: an aging population of teachers and difficulty in recruiting and retaining qualified teachers; severe teacher shortages, especially in rural areas; accentuated psychological pressure and a feeling of powerlessness related to increased levels of violence in schools; inadequate salary levels as well as sometimes discriminatory policies and abusive use of successive fixed-term contracts; multiple administrative tasks; and increased class sizes coupled with often decreased quality of infrastructure.

Following several petitions received on these issues, including the most recent (Petition No 0574/2023), can the Commission answer the following questions:

1. What is the Commission's assessment of the current state of the working conditions of teachers in the EU and their effect on the quality of education and the transmission of fundamental knowledge? Do comparative analyses exist, allowing for the identification and exchange of best practices?
2. What instruments does the Commission make available to Member States to assist them in implementing relevant improvements in school education systems, considering the evolving demands of the labour market and the corresponding needs in education, and the need for continuous professional development and upskilling, as well as the importance of infrastructure investments, where appropriate, including as part of the Renovation Wave initiative?
3. What strategies does the Commission envisage for levelling up the prestige and attractiveness (clear career prospects and motivating pay) of the teaching profession, including in rural, outermost and depopulated areas, with a view to also encouraging the fight against negative demographic trends and retaining talent in those areas?
4. How is the Commission monitoring the implementation of Directive (EU) 2019/1152¹ in relation to the teaching profession? What further action does it intend to take to guarantee full compliance with the Directive's provisions, as well as to avoid the excessive use of fixed-term contracts?

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Lapses: 24.4.2024

¹ Directive (EU) 2019/1152 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 on transparent and predictable working conditions in the European Union. OJ L 186, 11.7.2019, p. 105.