

**Question for written answer P-003466/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Sergio Gutiérrez Prieto (S&D)

Subject: Financing basic vocational training through the European Social Fund

The Secretary of State for Education in the Spanish Government, Montserrat Gomendio, has announced that she has reached a preliminary agreement with the Commission to use up to EUR 2 billion from the European Social Fund to finance the introduction of basic vocational training as provided for in the new Law on Education.

Under Article 15 of Royal Decree 127/2014 of the Spanish Government regulating specific matters relating to basic vocational training, this training programme is open to students who meet all of the following conditions: they must have reached the age of 15, or turn 15 during the calendar year concerned, and they must not be over 17 when starting the course or by the end of the calendar year concerned; they must have completed the first cycle of compulsory secondary education or, by way of exception, have completed the second course of compulsory secondary education if teaching staff have proposed to their parents or legal guardians that they be enrolled in a cycle of basic vocational training.

In the light of both the regulation governing the European Social Fund and the common strategic framework, can the Commission confirm whether there is such a preliminary agreement to finance basic vocational training? If so, and bearing in mind that the European Social Fund is intended for people of working age, does the Commission take the view that the European Social Fund can be used to finance national compulsory education systems?