

**Question for written answer E-015241/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Roberta Metsola (PPE)

Subject: Pre-school education

In September 2015, the Peabody Research Institute at Vanderbilt University released a study on the short- and medium-term effects of pre-school education. Researchers found improvements in cognitive and non-cognitive evaluations. By the end of first grade, however, the control group of children had caught up to the pre-school group in both types of assessment, and at the end of second grade those who had been randomly assigned to pre-school were actually doing worse than those who had not. A similar study released by Michael Baker, Jonathan Gruber and Kevin Milligan in September 2015 also found negative effects for Quebec children who had attended pre-school.

The Commission has the stated goal that 'by 2020 at least 95 % of pre-school children of 4 years or older should participate in early childhood education'.

Is the Commission aware of these studies, and have any conclusions been drawn regarding their findings?

If so, how does the Commission intend to weigh the findings of these studies against the Europe 2020 pre-school education goal?

Furthermore, does the Commission envisage taking any further action on its pre-school education targets in light of the aforementioned reports?