

**Question for written answer E-015898/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Eva Paunova (PPE)

Subject: School social stratification

School social stratification is a powerful engine of inequality in education and life opportunities for students in Bulgaria, and in other Member States such as Hungary, Slovakia and France.

Bulgaria ranks highest among the Member States when it comes to school social stratification, a phenomenon that leads to large variations in student performance and is connected with factors such as social and economic background, peer characteristics, type of school, student selection and grouping, and regional characteristics. It provokes and aggravates the already large achievement gap and serious disparities in education opportunities, and – eventually – in education outcomes for students. The education environment is similar in Slovakia, Hungary and France, where one of the factors for the existence of the large achievement gap is that schools are more often segmented by students' socio-economic background. School stratification is the prevailing factor for setting conditions of unequal education opportunities for students and for low levels of social mobility.

What measures does the Commission intend take in order to address the high level of school social stratification – and the variation of student performance based on school type, student selection and grouping – in the Member States?