

**Question for written answer E-012950/2015/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Sotirios Zarianopoulos (NI)

Subject: Serious problems affecting the education of working-class children

The policies of successive Greek governments over the years in accordance with EU, ECB and IMF guidelines, and the dramatic worsening of the situation as a result of the memorandums of understanding and implementing laws, have created massive problems with regard to education.

Following swingeing spending cuts, the recent third memorandum imposes yet more austerity and more radical restructuring, hitting the education sector particularly hard, requiring additional school mergers, retrograde school and teacher classification and assessment, increase in unpaid apprenticeships, effectively using young people as free labour and direct interference by the business sector in general, technical and vocational syllabuses in line with their own interests.

The new school year started with 25 000 unfilled teaching posts. Many schools have not yet opened and in others pupils are being crammed into classes of 30. Schools are also at immediate risk because of difficulties in meeting overheads (electricity, water, cleaning, etc.), since the necessary funds are being used to repay ECB and the IMF loans under the law of April 2015.

In view of this desperate situation and given that the Commission, together with the Greek Government, ECB and IMF, was responsible for drafting the third memorandum of understanding:

What is its position regarding urgent appeals by pupils, teachers and parents, for the immediate and large-scale recruitment of permanent teaching staff to fill the vacant posts, class sizes limited to 20, emergency funding for schools, cancellation of debts to public services and utilities and provision of free oil, gas, electricity, water and telephone services?