

Question for written answer E-015864/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Sabine Verheyen (PPE)

Subject: Erasmus+

The Commission published the Programme Guide for Erasmus+ 2016 on 20 October 2015. For some two months thereafter, however, it remained available only in English. At the same time, the Europe-wide call for submission of applications was published in all 24 official EU languages. However, the Programme Guide provides potential participants with essential information and is therefore indispensable for submission of a successful application.

The deadline for submitting applications was set for 2 February 2016, and yet the Programme Guide is still not available in all language versions. This puts non-English-speaking citizens at an enormous competitive disadvantage. Owing to the length of the Programme Guide (317 pages), the complexity of the application procedure and the fierceness of the competition for limited resources, the Programme Guide must be made available in all 24 official languages in good time for the lengthy application procedure to be completed.

1. Why are all the language versions of the Programme Guide not yet available?
2. Why were all language versions not published simultaneously?
3. Why does the Commission refer to the English version of the Programme Guide when it admits itself, in MEMO/12/703, that 'less than half of the EU population knows (English) well enough to be able to communicate' in it?