

**Question for written answer E-014422/2015**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Notis Marias (ECR)**

Subject: Hundreds of students at the University of Crete are deprived of their right to free meals

Article 1 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union states: 'Human dignity is inviolable. It must be respected and protected.' The austerity policy implemented in Greece, however, has resulted in survival problems for students studying at Greek universities.

The financing granted last year ensured the provision of free meals to 2 100 students at the University of Crete, in Rethymnon. In the academic year 2015-2016, seven hundred students are being deprived of their right to free meals due to the continued implementation of the troika-imposed MoU in Greece. Given the increase in VAT from 13% to 23% for food services, the financing granted to the University from the State budget is insufficient to cover the food costs for all eligible students, as determined on the basis of income-related considerations. Therefore, the policies dictated by the troika-imposed MoU have led hundreds of students to a dead end, given also that the current crisis has rendered them unable to meet even basic needs required to live a decent life.

Given the above, I would like to ask the Commission:

How could the Commission help secure funds from EU programmes for all eligible students to be provided with free meals?