

**Question for written answer E-008850/2013
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Lambert van Nistelrooij (PPE) and Ria Oomen-Ruijten (PPE)

Subject: The EU, common democracy and citizenship education

Dutch students have celebrated the award of the Nobel Prize for Peace to the EU by participating in the EU Peace Prize Tour. During the final stage of the tour, which was held in the Parliamentarium on 5 June 2013, they presented Parliament, represented by Lambert van Nistelrooij MEP, with a Citizens' Gift for Europe. The essence of the gift lies in the suggestion of describing the EU as a 'common democracy'.

1. Does the Commission agree that the term 'common democracy' constitutes a citizen-oriented alternative for the description of the EU post-Lisbon?
2. Is the Commission willing to consider the feasibility of the use of the term 'common democracy', introduced by Jaap Hoeksma in a blog on the Peace Palace Library website¹ and defined therein as a model of democratic governance for a transnational polity, in which the citizens can participate both in the national democracies of their Member States and in the common democracy of the Union?
3. Does the Commission share the view that European citizenship education forms an essential requirement for a living European democracy? Is the Commission therefore prepared to investigate the opportunities which Article 165(2) TFEU may offer for the development of Union-wide programmes for EU citizenship education?
4. Is the Commission prepared to stimulate academic and educational initiatives to examine and propagate the perception of the EU as a common democracy?
5. Might the Commission eventually be willing to use the term 'common democracy' in its own communications with the citizens of the Union?

¹ <http://www.peacepalacelibrary.nl/2013/05/the-european-union-as-a-common-democracy/>