

**Priority question for written answer P-001349/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Klára Dobrev (S&D)

Subject: The situation of teachers in Hungary

According to the 2022 country report, one of the causes of the teacher shortage in Hungary is their low pay, one of the lowest in Europe, while the student-teacher ratio is the highest, and in the absence of sufficient support staff, teachers must perform non-teaching duties as well.

The Hungarian Government has undertaken, in its recovery and resilience plan, as well as in the EFOP Plus (Human Resources Development Operational Programme), to make the teaching profession more attractive and to raise teachers' salary to at least 80% of the average salary of workers with tertiary education by 2025, and to raise the average salary of teachers in disadvantaged settlements by 12.5% starting in 2023.

The Government needs to engage in effective social dialogue with the teachers' unions regarding pay increases. In a country-specific recommendation, it was also stated that the Hungarian Government should improve the quality and transparency of the decision-making process by means of effective social dialogue involving other stakeholders and by means of regular impact assessments.

To date, it has not kept its promises. On the contrary, it seeks by means of a bill to introduce a new legal status for teachers, which would mean worse working conditions and would erode their rights of advocacy. For this reason, several thousand teachers are considering resigning. Yet these actions are not even part of the agreement made.

1. Does the Commission consider the Hungarian Government's planned actions adequate for fulfilling its commitments in the area of education?
2. Does it consider the consultation around the bill to be adequate? Is the demand for effective social dialogue, as a basis for more transparent decision-making, a condition for the payment of EU funds?

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