

Question for written answer E-001538/2024
to the Commission
Rule 144
David McAllister (PPE)

Subject: Ensuring a sufficient number of skilled workers

The transition to a digital and green economy can only succeed in cooperation with the skilled trades sector. All across Europe, there is a strong need for skilled trades workers – a need which is compounded by demographic change. At the same time, workers in the field are making increasing use of technology and require appropriate training.

The skilled trades need well-trained, experienced professionals who intend to pursue a long-term career in the sector. With extensive initial, further and ongoing training, the sector provides demanding, sustainable and locally based employment that is conducive to social and economic change. Qualified tradespeople are key to the economic success of European industry, in particular the export industry. They are essential for the EU's competitiveness.

Job profiles in the skilled trades need to be preserved and the career path should be made more attractive in all EU Member States. The trend towards academisation needs to be reversed by promoting the equal value of vocational and academic education, in order to ensure resilience, innovation and competitiveness at a regional level.

1. Does the Commission agree that well-established national training systems should be preserved without the need to implement European regulations or create parallel structures?
2. What measures are being taken to promote the equal value of academic and vocational training, for example through enhanced careers guidance in practice?
3. How does the Commission plan to facilitate the immigration of skilled workers?

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