

**Question for written answer E-002497/2025
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Marie Toussaint (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Students' course choices are forced rather than desired

On 4 June 2025, France announced that it was making educational guidance a national priority. This reflects a growing awareness in several Member States: that students' course choices, especially at the end of lower secondary, are based on social factors rather than being an informed decision.

In several European education systems, the guidance process ends up limiting opportunities of access, going against the principles of lifelong guidance defined in the Council Resolution of 21 November 2008, which promotes a person-centred, ongoing and inclusive approach.

Careers guidance should give everyone a better understanding of their skills, talents, interests and aspirations, based on the principles of self-identity and social justice.

1. What specific action does the Commission intend to take to support the development of policies for guidance that is focused on students choosing their preferred course rather than being forced into an undesired option?
2. Does the Commission intend to promote a common quality framework for guidance services that ensures they have trained professionals to provide the services, have suitable pedagogical tools at their disposal and offer students a personalised follow-up?
3. Under the European Semester framework, does the Commission intend to explicitly encourage Member States to close the gap in access to educational pathways by developing guidance mechanisms?

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