

Question for written answer E-005020/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
Merja Kyllönen (The Left)

Subject: Is the Finnish Government failing to comply with the EU Single Permit Directive (2011/98/EU) by proposing to impose annual tuition fees on international students?

The Finnish Government has acknowledged that international upper secondary school students fall within the scope of the abovementioned directive, which prevents the levying of tuition fees on those students. The government is nevertheless proposing that students from non-EU/EEA countries who are enrolled in upper secondary education and vocational training should be required to pay a fee, citing economics and children's interests as the grounds for its proposal.

If the proposal is adopted, all Member States will be able to circumvent the right to education guaranteed by the directive, making unequal treatment part of the conditions applicable to persons covered by the directive. This would undermine the objectives of the directive and its effective implementation, and would be at odds with the principles of EU law. Furthermore, education and training providers would no longer receive state subsidies for the students concerned.

The Finnish Government's proposal is therefore at odds with:

1. Article 12(1)(c) of the EU Single Permit Directive (2011/98/EU);
2. Article 14 of the European Convention on Human Rights and Article 2 of Protocol No 1 thereto;
3. sections 6(2), 16(2) and 22 of the Constitution of Finland (731/1999);
4. Article 52 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, read in conjunction with Articles 7 and 8 and Article 5(1) of the Data Protection Regulation ((EU) 2016/679).

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