Question for written answer E-001857/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: Continuity of tertiary education for pregnant women and women with children

Tertiary education is a key tool for reducing the gender employment gap in the EU, in line with the Gender Equality Strategy 2026–2030. However, progress remains influenced by parenthood: mothers have poorer employment outcomes than women without children, particularly among those with lower levels of education.

The challenge concerns not only access to education, but also the continuity and completion of studies, which are often disrupted by pregnancy and motherhood.

Ensuring that women can continue their education during these stages is both a matter of social equity and a lever for strengthening women’s participation in skilled employment and enhancing European competitiveness.

Some Member States have introduced measures such as childcare services, flexible learning pathways and targeted support, but these remain fragmented. While the EU provides support through programmes such as Erasmus+ and Horizon, a systemic approach that takes parenthood into account in tertiary education policies is still lacking.

In the light of the above:

1. Does the Commission have comparable EU-level data on pregnant students and mothers in tertiary education including data on retention, completion and employment outcomes?

2. Does the Commission intend to develop a more systemic approach to addressing parenthood in tertiary education policies, including through guidelines or recommendations for Member States?

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