

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000136/26
to the Commission
Jaume Asens Llodrà (Verts/ALE)
(14 January 2026)**

Subject: Use of equitable cartographic projections in EU institutional and educational materials

The Mercator projection distorts the size of continents, magnifying Europe and North America while reducing Africa and South America. This has a symbolic impact on global geopolitical perceptions. Adopting more equitable map projections reflects the EU's commitment to equality and to recognising all regions as partners of equal importance.

1. Will the Commission develop guidelines on good practices for the use of equitable cartographic projections (such as Equal Earth) in official materials and European educational projects?
2. Will the Commission commit to using equitable projections (such as Equal Earth) in its publications and websites, thereby setting a standard for the European institutions?
3. Acknowledging that education is a competence of the Member States, would the Commission be willing to issue non-binding recommendations on the use of equitable cartographic projections in educational materials?

Submitted: 14.1.2026

**Answer given by Mr Dombrovskis on behalf of the European Commission
(2 March 2026)**

The Commission's publications and geographical visualisations focus on the EU and the continent 'Europe'.

To produce maps and cartographic visualisations, the Commission uses internationally agreed standards and good practices, complemented with authoritative geospatial data from Member States ⁽¹⁾.

Any mapping choice depends on the context (e.g. geographical scope and purpose of the map) and no single, perfect solution exists as any projection deforms some parts of the world.

While acknowledging the importance of equitable projections, in its publications and websites, the Commission uses the most appropriate cartographic projections.

At the same time, the Commission follows the ongoing global geopolitical discussions and assesses the different practices and methodologies of cartographic projections including the ones like Equal Earth.

Beyond the Commission's mapping and visualisation practices, the EU's role under Article 165 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union is limited to supporting, coordinating and supplementing the actions of the Member States.

Responsibility for the content of teaching and the organisation of education systems lies exclusively with the Member States.

Accordingly, decisions concerning the choice of pedagogical materials, including the use of specific cartographic projections in educational resources, fall within the competence of national and, where applicable, regional authorities.

⁽¹⁾ The current mapping practice of the Commission is based on the European Lambert azimuthal equal-area projection (ETRS89-extended/LAEA Europe — EPSG:3035 — <https://epsg.io/3035>), because it preserves areas and minimises distortion for European territories. This mapping projection was implemented also in the INSPIRE Directive 2007/2/EC (as Data Specification on Coordinate Reference Systems — Technical Guidelines: https://knowledge-base.inspire.ec.europa.eu/publications/inspire-data-specification-coordinate-reference-systems-technical-guidelines_en), which is enriched with some other projection recommendations for various specific use cases.