



# SHAPE THE FUTURE OF EUROPE WITH TEACHERS

## Questions for Candidates to the 2019 European Parliament Elections

? In relation to the implementation of the **European Pillar of Social Rights** and the **European Education Area 2025** initiative, how can you, as a future MEP, ensure that **education in Europe is equally of high quality and inclusive**?

? In Europe, the teaching profession increasingly lacks attractiveness with demographic challenges, low salaries, unattractive working conditions and psychosocial risks taking their toll on teaching staff, leading to teacher shortages, increasing absenteeism and presenteeism. In your view how can the **attractiveness of the teaching profession** and the **recognition/status of teachers** be enhanced as well as **occupational health and safety in education**? How do you intend to contribute to promoting wellbeing at work and the attractiveness of the teaching profession?

? Regarding the Bologna Follow-Up process and the **European Higher Education Area** where do you see further possibilities of improvement and enhanced cooperation? How do you endeavour to promote academic freedom and the recognition of teaching in **higher education and research**?

? During the last decade, **social dialogue and collective bargaining** have deteriorated in the face of more imminent economic concerns, posing threats to democratic social partners' participation to policy making in education and leading to unilateral reforms directly affecting teachers and their unions. As a MEP, would you commit to fight to defend the legitimate voice of the social partners as a central instrument of democracy?

? The rapid rise of **public-private partnerships** in education or even of private providers offering educational services is undermining the EU governments' responsibility for high-quality, free, public education for all, posing risks of exclusion and segregation. As a MEP, would you commit to defend public education from for-profit interests and for **privatisation and commercialisation** attempts?

? Under the current rules, many countries in the last decade did not have enough budgetary space to invest in growth-enhancing areas and to reduce public debt levels concomitantly. As a MEP, would you support a revision of the rules of the **Stability and Growth Pact** to exclude public investment in education from the public deficit calculation?

? In a rapidly changing world of work where increasingly smart technology, **artificial intelligence**, algorithms rule people's life and society as whole, and where the call for **digital skills and media literacy** is increasing, which role do you attribute to education and teachers therein as well as education trade unions?

? Concerning the revision of the **European gender equality policy priorities**, as a MEP, how can you ensure that gender equality is mainstreamed in all European policies, especially addressing the horizontal and vertical segregation in the education sector and low attractiveness of the teaching profession?

? If the Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council of the European Union on **work-life balance** for parents and carers and repealing Council Directive 2010/18/EU is adopted in April 2019, how do you, as a MEP, ensure its implementation, including the access to paternity and carer's leave and the provision of sufficient early-childhood education and care facilities in all EU countries? Do you commit to a revision of the long-overdue Working Time Directive and Maternity Leave Directive?

? Regarding the **European Disability Strategy 2020-2030**, as a MEP, how do you ensure to address the need of granting disabled children/students the right to attend ordinary schools, to have access to specialised teachers and other education staff who are trained and able to respond to their specific needs, to give access to children with special needs to ad-hoc tools and programmes, as well as to help the families of disabled students?

? As a MEP, how can you ensure the provision of **sustainable funding** and support for teachers and other education personnel in **teaching democracy, human rights, universal values** and citizenship skills to competently address and cater for the needs of their students?

? The foundation for lifelong learning begins with high quality **early childhood education** and yet the sector has been persistently neglected. What is your contribution to further enhance and improve early childhood education?

? What is your view on the Joint Declaration of the **Eastern Partnership** Summit of 24 November 2017 regarding the limitation of social partners' access to the processes of implementation, monitoring, reporting and renewal of the 20 deliverables?

? Knowing that the promotion of **social dialogue** is at the heart of the EU (e.g., the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union) and that the partnership with the neighbourhood countries is built on the promotion of such values as democracy, human rights, socio-economic development, how do you ensure the explicit and real implementation of social dialogue under the 20 deliverables for the EaP, which has been omitted so far?

? Regarding the upcoming **new EU-Central Asia Strategy** – the revision of which will be proposed by the European External Action Service at the end of 2019 – how do you encourage a broader participatory and transparent approach of all important actors, in particular social partners, with a view of its elaboration, implementation, monitoring and reporting? Is it important and how to commit leaders in the region to promoting and ensuring the respect of social dialogue and trade union rights?

? As regards the **enlargement policy**, in your view, how can the fundamental respect of human and trade union rights be guaranteed as well as continuous and comprehensive social dialogue in the **Western Balkans**?