

Mohammed Chahim

Brussels, 23 March 2022

Dear President Roberta Metsola,

Mohammed Chahim

I am writing you to bring an issue to your attention. The issue concerns the possibility of internships at the European Parliament for students enrolled in vocational studies in The Netherlands.

The Erasmus+ program makes it possible for these students to do an internship abroad. The Dutch terms and conditions for internships for vocational students require that the organisation offering an internship is certified as a "recognised training company". Unfortunately, the EP is not certified as such.

As it stands, this means only higher level/university level students can be considered for an internship at the European Parliament. It would not only be a great learning experience for vocational students to be an intern at the EP, but it would also be fair to them. We have to make sure we try to engage all levels of society and strive to be as inclusive as we can be.

We are talking about students who, for example, study to become a paralegal, management assistant, financial administrative assistant, audio-visual production assistant, or many, many of the other vocations that can be of additional value to an MEP.

I would therefore like to ask you to look into the possibility of the EP becoming a "recognised training company". This requirement can be met very easily and free of charge by filing a request to become one with the vocational education and labour market institute (<https://www.s-bb.nl/en>).

I believe it's unfair that vocational students are unable to be an intern at the EP, while their skillsets can definitely be of additional value for MEPs. I sincerely hope you share the same view on this and will look into this matter.

Yours sincerely,

MEP dr. Mohammed Chahim

Thom de Vaal
Student

Isabel Nederhoed
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