

**Question for written answer E-001354/2015  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Ivan Jakovčić (ALDE)**

Subject: The issue of CAST competition limiting Croatian access to employment in EU institutions

In 2009 Croatian citizens had the opportunity to join the first competition for EU institutions called CAST/CRO/2009. This CAST had a drawback in that it applied only to jobs of type 3b, which precluded employment in a number of institutions such as the executive agencies of the EU, EU delegations, etc. This means that Croatian citizens are automatically disqualified in the preselection round regardless of their experience merely because the said institutions employ only candidates who have passed the CAST 3a-type competition. Just now executive agencies are recruiting a large number of people and we hear of a number of cases of Croatian citizens being unable to join the selection process because of the requirement to have passed the CAST type 3a competition, which none of the Croatian candidates can satisfy. Croatian citizens have never been able to qualify for type 3a contracts because they could not join such a CAST competition - one was never organised. Other new Member States which joined in the last rounds of enlargement either had such an opportunity or additional competence tests for 3a-type contracts were subsequently organised for them.

1. Are Croatian citizens therefore being discriminated against?
2. Does this violate Article 18 of the TFEU (Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union) which states that 'any discrimination on grounds of nationality shall be prohibited'?
3. What will the Commission do to remedy the unequal opportunities for Croatian citizens as far as employment in EU institutions, as shown in the above example?