

**Question for written answer E-001868/2017  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Steeve Briois (ENF), Dominique Martin (ENF) and Joëlle Mélin (ENF)**

Subject: Consistency of the 'Molière clause' with the principles of free movement and equal treatment

In France, a number of local authorities have introduced what is known as the 'Molière clause' for the award of public contracts, with a view to favouring companies which do not hire posted workers. The clause requires French to be spoken on site in connection with local authority projects. This helps to counteract the social dumping practised by eastern European countries and to stem the tide of foreign workers coming to France as a result of the Posting of Workers Directive. By allowing these workers to continue to pay social security contributions in their countries of origin, rather than the Member State in which they are working, the directive effectively favours foreign workers over French citizens. To date, the Commission has sidestepped the issue, saying it has received no documents or complaints relating to it.

Does the Commission believe the 'Molière clause' to be consistent with the principles of free movement and equal treatment?

What are its views on introducing social and environmental clauses for the award of public contracts, with a view to favouring the most responsible companies?