

**Question for written answer E-003547/2018
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Dominique Martin (ENF)

Subject: French nationals under-represented in the Commission

According to a Commission report of 18 June 2018, the French make up 15% of the EU's 443 million inhabitants (excluding the United Kingdom). However, they account for only 8% of the Commission's administrators at the standard grades¹ and fewer than 5% of its translators². There are 712 Romanian and Bulgarian administrators, compared with just 353 French.

Furthermore, a French Senate report³ revealed that there were no French nationals among the Commission's senior management responsible for the main policies under the European budget, such as agriculture and regional policy⁴, which accounted for around 70% of the budget in 2017⁵. Overall, all of the net budget contributors are under-represented.

Under the Staff Regulations, recruitment shall be directed to securing for the institution the services of officials of the highest standard of ability, recruited on the broadest possible geographical basis from among nationals of Member States of the Union⁶.

Why is the Commission not undertaking a specific recruitment programme for French nationals to address the significant imbalance it found⁷?

¹ AD5-AD8, Annex 7a (all staff excluding translators) https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/money/expenditure_en

² Annex 6 (translators and interpreters) https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/money/expenditure_en

³ http://www.assemblee-nationale.fr/14/europe/rap-info/i3468.asp#P555_109542

⁴ Cabinets and DGs: DG Agri and DG Regio.

⁵ 37% and 34% respectively, i.e. approximately 70% https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/money/expenditure_en

⁶ Article 27 of the Staff Regulations <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:01962R0031-20140501&from=en>

⁷ 'In absolute terms, the largest deficits concern nationals from Germany (almost 230 persons) and France (almost 140).' See Annex 7a <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52018DC0377&from=EN>