

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2502/99
by Rolf Linkohr (PSE)
to the Council

Subject: Europe Agreements with Eastern European countries

Each of the 'Europe Agreements' which the EU has concluded with Eastern European countries includes an 'equal treatment requirement' relating to the establishment of companies and nationals of the contracting countries (subject to certain provisos for special occupations).

1. Does the Council consider that this equal treatment requirement includes a prohibition of discrimination?
2. Does the Council consider that an EU Member State is barred from submitting nationals of the contracting countries to 'needs tests' if their own self-employed nationals are not required to undergo such tests?
3. Does the Council agree that, where a Member State does not require its own self-employed nationals to produce evidence of prior knowledge, etc., such evidence may not be required of the nationals of the contracting partner countries?
4. Does the Council agree that, where a Member State does not require its self-employed nationals to produce evidence of capital, this may not be required of the nationals of the contracting partner countries?