

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1356/01
by Vitaliano Gemelli (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Discrimination against Italian citizens on the basis of linguistic ability

With reference to a letter sent to me by Mr Marco Meneghini on 18 March 2001, I should like to know whether or not the contents of that letter correspond to reality.

Job advertisements have appeared in certain European newspapers to fill posts in the Socrates and Leonardo offices and the Youth Office in Brussels, all of which are financed by the Commission. However, those job offers seem to be aimed principally at people with a perfect command of French or English.

Would the Commission say – once spot checks have been carried out – whether or not the state of affairs described above is an accurate reflection of reality and whether or not it constitutes discrimination based on language or nationality, which is specifically banned under Belgian legislation designed to combat racism and under Article 211 of the European Charter of Fundamental Rights?