

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1830/01
by Lousewies van der Laan (ELDR)
to the Council

Subject: Recognition of marriage and steps towards equal treatment

In a recent ruling on registered partnerships, the European Court of Justice stated that marriage is generally defined as being between two heterosexuals. As you will be aware, the Netherlands has recently opened civil marriage to homosexual citizens. At this time, the Netherlands is the only country in the world to have done so.

The ruling on registered partnerships caused some confusion on what the Council's interpretation will be. Can the Council confirm that all its married employees will be treated equally, regardless of their sexual orientation or the gender of their partner? Moreover, I would like to know what steps are being taken to ensure equal treatment of married and non-married employees, including those with a registered, but non-matrimonial, partnership.