

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2069/01

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to the Commission

Subject: Recognition of diplomas in shipping

Ships sail under the flag of a country. As a general rule, they sail under a captain of the same nationality as the flag. In a few cases that can be difficult, in particular where no captains can be found with the same nationality as the flag. That is the case in the fisheries sector. German law requires German fisheries vessels to sail under German captains. But there are too few German captains. Captains of other nationalities are available, in particular Dutch ones. The potential of the fisheries sector is being severely restricted by that German law, which is tantamount to non-recognition of the training of ships' captains.

1. How does the Commission assess problems in the fisheries sector relating to the recognition of diplomas?
2. Do the Commission's efforts in the area of diploma recognition cover training as a ship's captain?
3. Can the Commission state where the obligation to sail under a captain of the same nationality as the flag stands in relation to European rules and regulations applicable to the free movement of labour?