

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2186/01
by José Gil-Robles Gil-Delgado (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Inconsistent attitude to the Spanish language at the European Schools

According to my understanding, it is normal practice for category III children to be admitted to any section at any of the European Schools.

When the EP Committee on Petitions asked for information on this subject at its meeting of 26 May 1999, the Commission stated in reply that the Munich European School, the only Spanish-language educational establishment serving that city and its environs, was not discriminating against Spanish pupils by restricting their admission, given that there were so few category I pupils enrolled in the Spanish section.

The information in my possession suggests that the criteria governing the admission of category III pupils to other sections in 1999 were much more generous than in the Spanish section, even when the number of eligible children was lower. (Out of the three small sections, the Spanish, Dutch, and Greek sections, the Spanish section is the smallest, consisting as it does of just 32 children, 47% of whom are category III pupils. The proportion of category III pupils in the Dutch and Greek sections, however, is higher, standing at 62% and 66% respectively).

Assuming that the above figures are correct, can the Commission say why the admission criteria vary according to nationality?