

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3616/01  
by Yasmine Boudjenah (GUE/NGL)  
to the Commission

Subject:           Processing of personal data

The French Council of State recently ruled that banks can use nationality as a criterion when considering applications for bank loans or credit. The decision to do so, which is completely discriminatory, was sharply criticised in December 1998 by the National Commission for Information Technology and Civil Liberties (CNIL), which had adopted the following provisions '... nationality cannot be a variable that is used in such calculations [computerised calculation of risk evaluation], whether expressed as one of 'French, EEC national, other' or, in particular, if specified precisely'; '... only information on the stability of the credit applicant's residence on French territory is of relevance'.

Does the Commission take the view that this decision of the Council of State, which nullified the CNIL's recommendation, is incompatible with Community legislation on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data?

What steps does it intend to take to put an end to such discrimination?