

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2699/02  
by Manuel Pérez Álvarez (PPE-DE)  
to the Commission

Subject:           Obstacles to the free movement of medical professionals

A number of young Spanish medical graduates have in recent years been doing the final stage of their academic and clinical training as public health supplementary interns and assistant doctors in Portugal (the Saúde Pública do internato complementar e médicos assistentes de Saúde Pública em Portugal) in Oliveira do Douro, Viana do Castelo, Paredes, Sta. Maria da Feira, Vila do Conde, Caminha, Braga, Melgaço, Chaves, Moncao and Campanha.

Once they have finished their education and training, including specific training in working as health authority employees (Portaria No 327/96 of 2 August), however, they find themselves prevented from obtaining appointments as 'Autoridades de Saúde' because they are foreigners.

At the same time, according to my information, there exists on the one hand some evidence that non-Portuguese citizens are holding jobs as health authority doctors, and on the other, evidence that doctors without specific training are occupying such posts, even if only on temporary basis.

Is the Commission aware of the situation of these medical professionals seeking to exercise their profession, in a neighbouring country, where they have carried out their specialist professional training?

Does the Commission share the criterion that the so-called Autoridade de Saúde doctors should be exclusively specialist professionals, given the definition of their work set forth in Decreto-Leo 336/96 (Diario da República 229 of 29 September 1993)?

What steps have been taken or will be taken with regard to this situation, which may constitute an infringement of the principle of free movement of workers within the European Union?