

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1733/03
by Jo Leinen (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: Linguistic discrimination in EU job vacancy notices

In its answer to Question E-0941/02¹ the Commission states that the term 'native speaker' is not acceptable, under any circumstances, under Community law. The Commission also states its intention of continuing to use its powers to fight against any discrimination caused by a requirement for native speaker knowledge in job advertisements.

A job advertisement published recently by CEDEFOP (European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training) in Thessaloniki, on whose governing body the Commission is represented, bore the title 'English mother tongue secretary'. However, the list of qualifications referred only to 'excellent English'.

Does the Commission take the view that the misleading title of this job advertisement discriminates against all applicants who are not native speakers of English?

What action will the Commission take on this matter?

Will the Commission try to prevent job advertisements such as this from being published in future?

¹ OJ C 229 E, 26.9.2002, p. 161.