

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2605/03
by Elizabeth Lynne (ELDR)
to the Commission

Subject: Recognition of qualifications for language teachers

Is the Commission aware that a British teacher of English having all adequate qualifications and teaching experience in the United Kingdom is required to pass the CAPES exam (Certificat d'aptitude pédagogique à l'enseignement du second degré, a very difficult exam, particularly for a foreigner) in order to be able to have a full-time teacher position in the French education system?

Would this not be in contravention of Council Directive 89/48/EEC¹ of 21 December 1988 on a general system for the recognition of higher education diplomas awarded on completion of professional education and training?

Is the proposed Directive on recognition of professional qualifications (COM(2002) 119 final) going to eliminate this anomaly, particularly since French teachers are able to teach in the United Kingdom without such an additional examination?

¹ OJ L 019, 24.1.1989, p. 16.