

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0046/04
by Jan Dhaene (Verts/ALE)
to the Commission

Subject: Advertisements for jobs in European organisations requiring English mother tongue

European organisations funded wholly or partly by the European Commission, in particular firms with Commission contracts, regularly advertise vacancies requiring 'English mother tongue' or 'English native speakers'.

There are also organisations which, following warnings from the European Commission and others, are replacing the phrase 'English mother tongue' with 'English mother tongue or equivalent' and 'English native speaker level' and then inviting only English native speakers. A full list of approximately 700 such advertisements collected by the European Esperanto Union can be found at: <http://lingovo.org/eo/2/15>.

1. Can the European Commission take action, possibly by means of legislation, including the withdrawal of Commission funding, against European organisations wholly or partly financed by it, and against private companies that have contracts with the European Commission which discriminate using the above criteria?
2. Can the European Commission carry out an in-depth study of the incidence of language discrimination against non-native speakers of English by European organisations, financed partially or wholly by the European Commission, as well as private companies awarded Commission contracts?