

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0210/04
by Markus Ferber (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Language discrimination in job advertisements

A number of magazines repeatedly publish job advertisements seeking to recruit applicants with English as their mother tongue, although the jobs are within EU institutions or at consultancy firms focusing on European policy. Particular emphasis is placed on linguistic background as a criterion for recruitment ('English mother tongue'/ 'native English speaker': examples can be seen at www.lingvo.org/eo/2/15). These advertisements discriminate against applicants with equivalent professional qualifications and a very good knowledge of English, but whose mother tongue is not English.

Discrimination of this kind on the basis of linguistic background is expressly prohibited under Article 21 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.

Can the Commission therefore answer the following questions:

1. What steps has the Commission taken to prevent such discrimination?
2. Is the Commission considering including a ban on discrimination on the grounds of linguistic background in the Community action programme to combat discrimination (Council Decision No 2000/750/EC of 27 November 2000)?