

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0236/04
by Miet Smet (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Job advertisements for 'native speakers'

The European Commission has supported the view expressed in a number of parliamentary questions on the use of the term 'native speakers' in job advertisements that the use of terms such as 'mother tongue' or 'native speaker' contravenes Community law on the free movement of workers. The Commission has also emphasised its intention to use its legal powers, where necessary, to prohibit the use of terms such as 'native speaker' in job advertisements.

Technical support offices, non-governmental organisations and certain firms engaged in European activities have persisted in publishing job advertisements aimed exclusively at 'native English speakers' and applicants with 'English mother tongue'. Recent examples can be found at www.lingvo.org/eo/2/15.

What action does the Commission intend to take against firms and NGOs that stipulate 'English mother tongue' or 'native English speakers' in their job advertisements? Does the Commission intend to do more to prevent such violations of the principle of the free movement of workers?