

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0710/04
by Concepció Ferrer (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: EU notices of vacancy for English mother-tongue candidates

A number of technical agencies, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and private companies, all of them partially or totally financed by the Commission, have published notices of more than 700 vacant posts in Europe, reserved exclusively for candidates who are 'English mother-tongue' or 'native English speakers' (www.lingvo.org/eo/2/15).

The notices do not state that people with 'good' or 'excellent' command of English are being sought, but explicitly and exclusively native English speakers.

Can the Commission confirm the existence of such practices and, if so, does it not consider that they constitute an example of discrimination contrary to the provisions of the Treaties?