

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1301/04
by Antonio Di Pietro (ELDR) and Giorgio Calò (ELDR)
to the Commission

Subject: Discriminatory treatment of Community research students by the Max Planck Society

In reference to the Commission's reply of 23 February 2004 to Written Question E-0062/04¹, in which the Commission invited us to send it more information regarding discrimination against non-German students by the Max Planck Society, we submit the following evidence.

The presidency and the central administration of the Max Planck Society openly admit to the fact that foreign students are treated differently, be it in official circulars (Rundschreiben 82/2002 and 35/2004, for example), or in letters, films and press articles (for example, the reply by Mr Willems of the Society's personnel division to an article published in 'The Scientist' on 3 March 2004 on discrimination at the Society).

In particular, the treatment of German and foreign research students is set out in two separate sections of the Society's internal staff regulations (Personalhandbuch), on pages 'G02/Anlage A II d 1' and 'G02/Anlage B I d' respectively.

Given that the Commission has already declared in its reply to Written Question E-0062/04 that such discrimination constitutes a violation of Article 39 of the Treaty on equal access to job opportunities, which is the right of all EU citizens, what practical action does the Commission intend to take to put a stop to this grave injustice?

¹ OJ C