

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2496/04

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Subject: Inequality in the way European students are treated in Spain

A Portuguese graduate nursing student, with an average final mark of 16 on a scale of 0 to 20, applied, as a graduate, to take up medical studies in various Spanish universities. When assessing the application, the Spanish universities converted most of the applicant's average final marks into 1 on the Spanish scale of 0-4. When the applicant reported this to the Spanish Education Ministry, the Ministry stated that universities were completely autonomous when it came to deciding on equivalent values for marks.

Mobility of students within the EU is an issue dear to the Commission's heart, and the Commission has made a decisive contribution to consolidating such mobility by promoting a range of programmes. Furthermore, the Bologna process, which all the Member States signed up to, aims at constructing a European higher education area which will promote student mobility.

Does the Commission not believe that we are here talking about inequality of treatment, since the equivalent value of a Portuguese 16 on a scale of 0 to 20 cannot possibly be 1 on the Spanish scale?

Does the Commission not believe that it is urgent, in view of Article 140 of the EC Treaty, to take steps to foster cooperation and coordination of cooperation activities between Member States, so as to avoid failures of correspondence like the one we are talking about here?