

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1554/05

by Bogdan Golik (PSE)

to the Commission

Subject: Recognition of the qualifications of Polish nurses and midwives in the EU under the Commission proposal for a directive 2002/0061(COD)

Polish nurses and midwives are seriously alarmed by proposal for a directive 2002/0061(COD) which includes provisions that not only discriminate against Polish nurses and midwives who qualified prior to accession, but are also in breach of the decisions taken at the Copenhagen Summit. This discrimination based on nationality stems from the fact that the 'sectoral' system does not allow for recognition of technical medical school nursing qualifications and also from the introduction of a requirement for five years' professional training in the seven years before certification in the case of nurses and midwives who were educated in the college system. In the case of citizens of the other Member States, only the condition of three years' professional training in a five-year period applies. The Commission is, therefore, taking such a strict stance only against Poland. This could lead to a situation in which nurses and midwives who do not complete the so-called bridging studies lose their existing authorisation, thus causing a serious threat to the health service in Poland. Could the Commission clarify its position on this matter?