

WRITTEN QUESTION E-5308/07
by Urszula Krupa (IND/DEM)
to the Commission

Subject: Discrimination against and unequal treatment of Polish nurses in the European Union

One of the European Union's standard catchphrases is the creation of an area of free movement of persons, workers and services. Unfortunately, this principle was contravened back when the Accession Treaty between Poland and the European Community was drawn up. Directive 2005/36/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the recognition of professional qualifications also contains provisions discriminating against Poles, in the form of clauses allowing for the non-recognition of the high standard of education and skills of Polish nurses and midwives. The Polish Government launched proceedings before the European Court of Justice on this matter, which it lost on formal and not substantive grounds. The nurses then turned to Parliament's Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection and its President, Hans-Gert Pöttering, for help. Unfortunately, as yet, they have received no response, which represents a breach of the European Code of Good Administrative Behaviour.

Will the Commission take any steps to abolish the discriminatory provisions and stop the unfair treatment of Polish nurses on the European labour market, whose qualifications, skills and education equal, and sometimes surpass, those of their colleagues from other Member States?