

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0823/08

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to the Commission

Subject: Discrimination on grounds of nationality

Discrimination on grounds of nationality is prohibited under Article 12 of the Treaty establishing the European Community. Likewise, Directive 2000/43/EC¹ provides the legal basis for promoting equality between persons irrespective of racial or ethnic origin. A Eurobarometer survey on discrimination and inequality in Europe published in 2007 nevertheless shows that discrimination on grounds of ethnic origin is widespread in the respondents' countries (EU25: 64%, Romania and Bulgaria: 40.5%). However, most cross-border cases of discrimination based on ethnic origin are not brought to the attention of the media, or even of citizens. Given the lack of official data on this type of cross-border discrimination, will the Commission draw up Community statistics that reflect the scale of the problem? What steps will the Commission take to inform citizens more effectively of the legal instruments available to them in order to uphold their rights?

¹ OJ L 180, 19.7.2000, p. 22.