

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3981/08
by Adamos Adamou (GUE/NGL)
to the Commission

Subject: Integration and labour access to immigrants

The Commission acknowledges once again in its latest communication (COM(2008)0359) that the social integration of immigrants in the EU is necessary for their well being. A speedy and effective access to the labour market instead of fostering a lengthy and bureaucratic procedure discouraging the immigrants willing to contribute to the labour market of the host society is additionally in the interests of both Member States and immigrants. Employment could prove helpful in facilitating integration where accompanied by other relevant measures such as the free learning of language of the host country sponsored by the state etc. It allows immigrants to become self-sufficient and facilitates integration as well as possible reintegration upon return to the country of origin. It helps to prevent exclusion from the host society and can positively impact public opinion in such a way that immigrants are not regarded as a burden to society.

In the light of the above:

1. beyond arguing that immigrants must prove useful, has the Commission considered an employers- and public-targeted campaign in favour of immigrants' employment and labour rights?
2. has the Commission considered a coherent system for the swift recognition of immigrant applicants' academic professional qualifications, in the context of the reception conditions, accompanied by any free assistance necessary to provide the technical knowledge necessary for the migrants' first occupation, align their individual language skills with the language of the Member State as well as with the technical knowledge required for their occupation?
3. what specific solutions have been put forward by the stakeholders in order to make the European Refugee Fund more flexible and simplified? Has the Commission considered a solution, which entails an increase in funding aiming specifically at ensuring the swift and undiscriminated access for beneficiaries of international protection in the labour market?