

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3308/09
by Csaba Sógor (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Mother tongue EPSO examinations

The following appears on the homepage of the European Personnel Selection Office (EPSO):
'The European Union Institutions apply a policy of equal opportunities and accept applications without discrimination on any grounds such as sex, race, colour, ethnic or social origin, genetic features, language, religion or belief, political or any other opinion, membership of a national minority, property, birth, disability, age or sexual orientation.'

EU citizens who belong to minorities are, however, disadvantaged, as they may use only their country's official language in EPSO examinations and not their mother tongue, even if this is one of the 23 official EU languages. They are therefore at a disadvantage when compared to their rivals whose mother tongue is their country's official language.

This could be remedied simply by altering EPSO's examination specifications.

I am allowed to address the European Parliament in my mother tongue; it should be possible for every EU citizen to use their mother tongue, even when taking an examination, if the language in question is an official EU language.

To give a specific case: why must Hungarians from Transylvania or the Hungarian Upland region be examined in Romanian or Slovak, when their mother tongue – Hungarian – is an official EU language?