

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3361/09
by Ingeborg Gräßle (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Training of 'EU diplomats'

On 20 April 2009 the magazine *Der Spiegel* reported that a number of Commission staff members were currently attending universities and colleges under a specially developed training programme to study subjects including 'political analysis' and 'dealing with the media'.

1. How many Commission staff members are currently receiving training on courses of this type?
2. How were the staff members selected for this further training?
3. From which directorates-general were they selected?
4. Since when has this further training programme been operating?
5. How much has the Commission spent annually on this further training since its inception?
6. What are the subjects or themes covered?
7. Where do the courses take place? How much time do the staff members concerned spend on these training courses and away from their ordinary work?
8. What is the specific purpose of this further training and how do the Commission staff members concerned subsequently use what they learn in a practical everyday context?