

**Question for written answer E-9038/2010
to the Commission
Rule 117
Hynek Fajmon (ECR)**

Subject: Unfair allocation of posts of heads of EU diplomatic missions

According to a report by the Polish Institute of International Affairs, the posts of the heads of the EU's diplomatic missions around the world have been allocated recently in a very strange fashion. Of the total of 115 head-of-mission jobs, no fewer than 66 were allocated to five founding Member States, Belgium, France, Germany, the Netherlands and Italy. Only two such jobs went to the new Member States that joined the EU in or after 2004. I personally consider that that is very unfair and constitutes a flagrant injustice. It is also interesting to note that only 11 posts are occupied by women, which is very odd when the EU is itself vociferously calling for gender equality: fewer than 10% of this category of top diplomats are women. I also consider it particularly strange that the persons appointed to head the EU's diplomatic missions in Moscow and Kiev do not, allegedly, speak Russian or Ukrainian. I therefore put the following questions to the Commission:

1. Are these figures published in the report by the Polish Institute of International Affairs correct?
2. If so, does the European Commission consider this allocation to be fair as regards the representation of the new Member States?
3. Does the European Commission consider it to be right and proper for the post of head of an EU diplomatic mission in a country to be held by a diplomat who does not speak the language of the country concerned?
4. Does the European Commission consider that appointing women to only 10% of posts as head of mission is sufficient? Is this proportion in accordance with the European Commission's loudly proclaimed principle of gender equality?