

**Question for written answer E-010662/2011  
to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**Alajos Mészáros (PPE)**

**Subject:** Recognition of the levels of titles and qualifications obtained in other Member States

I have received information concerning people who, after having obtained in Hungary the university qualification required to become teachers, wish to obtain in Slovakia the specific 'PaedDr.' qualification/title. However, the universities concerned do not allow this, invoking the position adopted by the Slovak Ministry of Education, on the grounds that the qualification in question can only be awarded to people who hold the 'Mgr' university qualification<sup>1</sup> (which is of an equivalent level to the university qualification obtainable in Hungary).

Issues relating to education systems are a matter for the Member States, and – in the absence of harmonisation – the Member States determine the requirements applicable to the exercise of a profession. However, according to the case law of the Court of Justice, the Member States are required to exercise this power in accordance with the fundamental freedoms guaranteed by the Treaties.<sup>2</sup>

The Court of Justice<sup>3</sup> has held that the Member States are required to take into account qualifications obtained in the territories of other Member States; they may only prescribe supplementary examinations if an objective comparison of the qualifications awarded in the two Member States concerned shows there to be inadequacies in the qualification obtained abroad.

In our view, the decision of the Slovak authorities infringes European law, inter alia because no account has been taken of the qualification obtained in the other Member State, and this practice violates the rights guaranteed by citizenship of the Union which determine the fundamental legal status of European citizens.

Does not the Commission consider that the current situation breaches the EU's principle of free movement of persons?

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<sup>1</sup> Zákon č. 131/2002 Z. z. o vysokých školách

<sup>2</sup> Court of Justice of the EU, judgment in the case of De Castro, C-149/97, paragraphs 21 and 32

<sup>3</sup> Court of Justice of the EU, judgment in the case of Vassopoulou, C-340/89