

**Question for written answer E-002472/2014  
to the Commission**

Rule 117

**Tadeusz Cymański (EFD)**

Subject: Discrimination in the EU labour market

On 1 May 2009, the restrictions on access to the Belgian labour market for nationals of Poland and the other countries which joined the EU in 2004 were lifted.

Freedom of movement for workers is one of the fundamental principles of the EU – it was enshrined in Article 45 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. EU citizens have the right to seek work in another EU country. In the Brussels region, EURES (European Employment Services), set up by the Commission to facilitate the free movement of workers at international level, works together with the Actiris employment agency.

Staff at Actiris refuse to provide information in English and are banned from using English on work premises. This is highly discriminatory against people who speak neither French nor Flemish but are EU citizens. Actiris's role is to provide help and information to people actively looking for work, but they cannot do this if the agency's staff refuse to communicate and provide basic information.

From what I have heard from many of my compatriots living in Belgium, the structures established to provide help to the unemployed may infringe the principles of equal treatment of EU citizens in the context of the labour market. Why does the Commission permit discrimination against EU citizens when it comes to free access to the labour market? Is the Commission aware of this practice? What steps will the Commission take to check on these practices and stop the discrimination?