

Question for written answer E-000208/2021
to the Commission
Rule 138
Jordi Cañas (Renew)

Subject: Linguistic discrimination of workers in Catalonia in employment and occupation

In recent years there have been cases in which workers in establishments located in Catalonia have been forced by their companies to attend to customers solely in Catalan, not allowing them to express themselves freely in Spanish, which is a co-official language. As recent example is that of the Abacus cooperative, which took steps to identify an employee who had used Spanish in his dealings with a customer¹.

This shows once again how workers in Catalonia are victims of constant persecution in the work place, are discriminated against on linguistic grounds and suffer infringements of their fundamental rights.

Regard being had to the European Parliament's resolution², in which it is recognised that, in communities where there is more than one official language, linguistic rights must be respected without limiting those of one group in comparison with those of another, I put the following questions to the Commission:

1. Does the Commission consider that in such situations there is discrimination based on language contrary to Articles 21 and 22 of the European Charter of Fundamental Rights? Does it intend to urge the relevant Spanish national authorities to comply with their legal obligations?
2. Does the Commission intend to amend Directive 2000/78/EC³ so as to include discrimination based on language in employment and occupation?

¹ https://twitter.com/AbacusCoop/status/1341438873734426624?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw

² European Parliament Resolution of 17 December 2020 on the European Citizens' Initiative 'Minority SafePack - one million signatures for diversity in Europe' (2020/2846(RSP)).

³ Council Directive 2000/78/EC of 27 November 2000 establishing a general framework for equal treatment in employment and occupation.