Question for written answer E-000647/2021 to the Commission
Rule 138
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Subject: Clarifications regarding discrimination between European citizens seeking employment in the UK

Citizens from all EU Member States, apart from Bulgaria, Estonia, Lithuania, Romania and Slovenia, are automatically entitled to a £55 visa fee reduction if seeking employment in the UK. This concession is granted under the 1961 European Social Charter, to which the United Kingdom is a party, but which does not include the five Member States in question. At the same time, they are signatories to the revised European Social Charter of 1996, to which the United Kingdom, however, is not a party.

As a result, the United Kingdom does not apply the provisions of the 1961 European Social Charter to their nationals, resulting in discriminatory visa fee reduction arrangements.

1. How will the European Commission address the issue of discrimination between EU citizens by the UK with regard to work visa fees?

2. What political and legal leverage can be exercised by the Member States not signatory to the 1961 Charter to obtain fair treatment?

3. What steps will the Commission take to protect the right to work and related rights of all EU citizens so as to prevent any recurrence of such situations?