

Question for written answer E-001212/2021
to the Commission
Rule 138
Jordi Cañas (Renew)

Subject: Discrimination on language grounds against unemployed persons in Catalonia

The Regional Government of Catalonia is violating the rights of Spanish-speaking citizens - protected by the Spanish Constitution, the Statute of Autonomy and Articles 21 and 22 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights - by preventing unemployed persons from taking part in training courses financed by the Catalan Employment Service (SOC), on language grounds.¹

While 'equal employment opportunities for all, without discrimination on grounds of sex, ethnicity, age, marital status, political affiliation, trade union membership, religion, background, opinion or language' is the guiding principle laid down by the law on the establishment and functioning of the SOC, Article 5.8 of Catalan Order TSF/170/2018 stipulates that 'Catalan should be used as the working language, and training materials produced by beneficiaries should, at least, be drawn up in Catalan'. This measure is at odds with many court rulings which have struck down the requirement to use Catalan as the working language and insisted on compliance with the principle of bilingualism in public institutions, and is preventing Spanish speakers from gaining access to training courses.

In the light of the above:

How will the Commission guarantee equal access to training programmes for unemployed people without discrimination on language grounds?

¹ See attached article from the ABC newspaper.