

**Question for written answer E-001602/2021
to the Council**

Rule 138

Petra Kammerevert (S&D)

Subject: Mutual recognition of qualifications obtained abroad

Potential employers in Germany, in both the private and public sectors, often require job applicants with higher-education qualifications obtained abroad to provide a 'statement of comparability'. That is 'an official document issued by the "Zentralstelle für ausländisches Bildungswesen" (Central Office for Foreign Education – ZAB) that describes the foreign higher education qualification, its professional and academic usage. [...] It is a comparative assessment but not a recognition certificate.'¹ The assessment has to be applied for; the first application costs EUR 200 EUR, subsequent applications cost EUR 100 each, and, according to the ZAB, the procedure takes up to 12 weeks. Job applicants failing to provide a statement of comparability risk being disregarded.

1. Are there comparable procedures in other Member States? If there are, how much do they cost and how long do they take?
2. What examples of good practice are there in terms of less bureaucratic, less costly and shorter procedures?
3. Since the Council Recommendation on promoting automatic mutual recognition of higher education and upper secondary education and training qualifications and the outcomes of learning periods abroad was adopted in November 2018, what tangible measures have Member States taken in line with that objective?

¹ <https://www.kmk.org/zab/zentralstelle-fuer-auslaendisches-bildungswesen/zeugnisbewertung.html>