

**Question for written answer E-001615/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Petra Kammerevert (S&D)

Subject: Mutual recognition of educational qualifications obtained abroad

Potential employers in both the private and public spheres in Germany often require applicants who possess a higher education qualification gained abroad to produce a 'credential evaluation'. This is 'an official document issued by the Central Office for Foreign Education (ZAB) which describes a higher education qualification gained abroad and certifies its potential professional and academic applications. It is a comparative classification but does not constitute a recognition.'¹ The procedure must be applied for and costs EUR 200 for the first application and EUR 100 for each subsequent application, setting in motion a procedure which, according to the ZAB, takes up to 12 weeks. The absence of a credential evaluation might mean that the corresponding applications will not be considered.

1. What is the Commission's assessment of this procedure in terms of promoting both mobility and the automatic mutual recognition of higher education qualifications? Are there similar procedures in other Member States, how much do they cost, and how long do they take?
2. What examples of good practices are there in this area which result in procedures which are less bureaucratic, cheaper and shorter?
3. What specific measures has the Commission taken since the adoption of the Council Recommendations on promoting automatic mutual recognition of higher education and upper secondary education diplomas and of the outcomes of learning periods abroad which correspond to this objective?

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