

ORAL QUESTION H-0225/01
for Question Time at the part-session in March 2001
pursuant to Rule 43 of the Rules of Procedure
by Per Gahrton
to the Council

Subject: What is the Swedish Presidency's objection to the German language?

According to reports in the German press the Swedish Presidency has decided that German will not have the same status as English and French at a number of EU meetings. This has already resulted in German and Austrian representatives stating that they will not be attending the meetings in question.

Only sixty years ago German was the first foreign language in Swedish schools. Even today German is much more common amongst visitors to Sweden than French. German, in fact, is the most widely spoken mother tongue in the EU.

As a former student of German I am therefore asking, in German, why the Swedish Presidency is discriminating against the German language? What is the Swedish government's objection to German?

Tabled: 26.02.2001
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