

WRITTEN QUESTION P-3404/01

by Carlos Ripoll y Martínez de Bedoya (PPE-DE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Official languages within the EU institutions

On 10 July 2001 the Commission published in Official Journal S 130 a call for tenders (ref. D1/ASS/2001/0053) for the provision of assistance and technical support for the tasks relating to the actions in the LIFE environment programme which are funded in the 15 EU Member States and certain applicant countries.

Paragraph 1.6(c) of the Technical Annex to the call for tenders is concerned with the selection criteria and the required composition of the team is clearly stated:

‘The team-leader and the deputy team leader as well as other staff with co-ordination responsibilities vis-à-vis the Commission should, in addition to an active knowledge of English and/or French, have at least a passive knowledge of the other language. These two languages will be the official languages for all contacts with the Commission.’

Pursuant to Articles 314 and 290 of the Treaty (which lay down the rules relating to language use within the EU institutions and which are enacted by means of Article 6 of Council Regulation No. 1), there are eleven official languages through the medium of which the EU institutions are required to work, communicate, establish contact and divulge their activities, decisions, documents and legal acts.

Is the statement contained in the call for tenders to the effect that English and French ‘will be the official languages for all contacts with the Commission’ in accordance with what is laid down in the Treaties? Upon what legal basis was the call for tenders published in those specific terms?

Does the Commission not consider that it has introduced an element of linguistic discrimination into the call for tenders and thereby caused a distortion of the market?

Will the Commission supply the details and the results of the assessment carried out of all those who responded to call for tenders D1/ASS/2001/0053 in accordance with the selection criteria laid down in the Technical Annex to the call?