

WRITTEN QUESTION P-3447/01
by Karla Peijs (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 (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 and it 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.’

Under Articles 21 and 290 of the Treaty, which lay down the rules relating to language use within the EU institutions and are enacted by means of Article 2 of Council Regulation No 1/58¹, there are 11 official languages through the medium of which the EU institutions are required to work, communicate, establish contact and divulge their activities, decisions, documents and acts.

What is the legal basis for the stipulation that English and French are the official languages of the European Union for all contacts with the Commission in this tender – is this not in fact contrary to the Treaty and Regulation No 1/58 and does not the Commission think that there should first be a public debate and decision?

Does not the Commission think that it has introduced linguistic discrimination into this call for tenders and is thus guilty of distortion of competition?

Can the Commission supply precise details and results relating to all those who responded to this call for tenders in accordance with the selection criteria laid down in the Technical Annex?

¹ OJ 17, 6.10.1958, p. 385; OJ English special edition: Series-I (52-58) p. 59.