

WRITTEN QUESTION P-0021/03
by Vitaliano Gemelli (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Appointment of senior staff in the European Commission - medical service

ILO (International Labour Organisation) Recommendation No 112 concerning occupational health services in places of employment establishes, as one of the professional guarantees designed to ensure that there is a relationship of trust between employers, workers and their occupational health service physician, 'professional and moral independence' vis-à-vis all those concerned.

In its resolution of 1 July 1960 on safety and hygiene at work the European Parliament recognises that occupational medicine is practised in occupational health services in companies and in the work of occupational physicians.

In its Recommendation of 20 July 1962 on company medical services¹ the Commission calls on the Member States to officially recognise occupational medicine in enterprises, emphasising that these services should preferably be headed, wherever possible, by full-time occupational physicians.

Can the Commission say why it saw fit to ignore the fundamental principles of the ILO recommendation, Parliament's resolution and its own recommendation to the Member States, by appointing an official with no medical knowledge as head of its medical service?

Does the Commission not consider that decisions of this kind may severely harm its credibility in the eyes of the other institutions and European citizens?

¹ OJ B 80, 31.8.1962, p. 2181.