

WRITTEN QUESTION P-0824/05
by Bogdan Klich (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Creation of administrative barriers by some Member States to the setting up of firms and provision of services by operators from other Member States

Some Member States, such as Germany and Belgium, have strict internal rules severely restricting access to national markets for the provision of services. This problem relates in particular to difficulties setting up firms on the territory of particular Member States, the provision of craft services, the establishment of countless administrative barriers in connection with the recognition of professional qualifications, and so on. These are blatant examples of discrimination against firms from other Member States, preventing the implementation of the EC Treaty provisions regarding the setting up of firms and the provision of services in a single, liberalised European Union market. There is an urgent need for a directive on internal market services, introducing the country of origin principle, whereby service providers are subject to the laws of the Member State in which they are established. It is also vital to speed up the work on a single directive on the recognition of qualifications, designed to simplify and standardise the system as a whole.

In the light of the above, when will the Commission complete its work on the directives on the internal market and on the recognition of qualifications and will these directives effectively prevent Member States from putting up administrative barriers making it difficult for operators from other Member States to set up firms and provide services in a single European Union market?