

WRITTEN QUESTION P-1089/06  
by Jean-Claude Fruteau (PSE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Reimbursement of travel and accommodation expenses for candidates in administrative competitions for the European institutions

As part of its staff recruitment procedures, the Commission regularly holds open competitions which are open to all citizens of the Union. In this context, however, the European Personnel Selection Office (EPSO) does not make any financial contribution towards the travel and accommodation expenses of candidates.

However, many of the candidates face financial difficulties because of their particular social and/or family circumstances. This is of particular concern in the case of those who live in the outermost regions and who are obliged to pay air fares for distances which may be greater than 10 000 kilometres.

Although the equal treatment of all Union citizens must remain the rule, at the same time it is important to ensure equal treatment as regards access to training and employment, taking particular account of social, financial and distance criteria.

I should therefore like to know whether the Commission is envisaging any change to its rules with regard to funding access to competitions, so as to take account of the specific financial circumstances of each candidate and how far away they live from the examination centres? If this is the case, what kind of changes do the Commission's services envisage?