

**Question for written answer P-003337/2012
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Horst Schnellhardt (PPE)

Subject: Recognition of the qualifications of veterinary surgeons in Canada

The Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region, signed by the Council of Europe and a number of other parties, including Canada, in 1997, is intended to ensure that higher education qualifications gained in Europe are recognised in the signatory countries.

As regards transposition into national law, Canada has chosen a decentralised approach involving an assessment process in the provinces, on the basis of which European veterinary surgeons may be required to pass another veterinary examination. Conversely, the university degrees of Canadian veterinary surgeons are recognised in the European Union, in this case in Germany, provided that the equivalence of the qualification can be proven in accordance with a given set of criteria.

1. Is the Commission involved in negotiations to persuade Canada to change the way it currently implements these rules?
2. What steps is the Commission taking to remedy this form of unequal treatment?