

- whether, and by means of what procedures, equality of treatment was ensured, i.e. whether the candidates choosing each different topic had an equal chance of reaching the oral stage?

**Answer given by Mr Kinnock on behalf of the Commission**

(19 April 2004)

The Competition referred to by the Honourable Member is still ongoing. The workings of the selection board are governed by the principle of confidentiality. The Commission is therefore not in a position to supply the data requested at present.

The Commission will, however, readily provide the Honourable Member with further information when the competition has been completed.

The general principle of equal treatment of candidates is ensured through application of criteria laid down in the published notice of competition COM/A/3/02<sup>(1)</sup>. There is no specific procedure to ensure an equal chance of reaching the oral stage between the candidates choosing each different topic. The Selection Board in field 2 (sustainable development) decided to offer five options in the written test, and candidates were freely able to choose one out of the five. Regardless of the option chosen, the candidates with the 195 highest scores were admitted to the oral test within the terms of the notice of competition.

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ C 177, 25.7.2002.

(2004/C 84E/0784)

**WRITTEN QUESTION P-0934/04**

**by Mogens Camre (UEN) to the Commission**

(22 March 2004)

*Subject:* Breakdown of EU staff by grades A, B, C and D

In 2003, funds were allocated from the EU budget for a total of 31 000 permanent posts and 1 966 temporary posts in the EU's institutions.

Broken down by institution, the figures are as follows:

|                               | Permanent posts | Temporary posts |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Commission                    | 21 849          | 685             |
| Parliament                    | 4 170           | 790             |
| Council                       | 2 866           | 53              |
| Court of Justice              | 862             | 278             |
| Court of Auditors             | 509             | 279             |
| Economic and Social Committee | 501             | 24              |
| Committee of the Regions      | 230             | 22              |
| Ombudsman                     | 13              | 18              |

Will the Commission provide a breakdown of the total number of staff in each grade (A, B, C and D) by nationality within the EU?

**Answer given by Mr Kinnock on behalf of the Commission***(19 April 2004)*

As at 31 December 2003, the total number of permanent and temporary staff employed by the Commission was 21 166. The breakdown of officials per category, as defined in the Staff Regulations, and by nationality of origin was as follows:

| Country        | A     | LA    | B     | C     | D   | Total  |
|----------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----|--------|
| Belgium        | 946   | 178   | 1 322 | 2 315 | 256 | 5 017  |
| Denmark        | 203   | 117   | 87    | 136   | 8   | 551    |
| Germany        | 1 006 | 195   | 337   | 442   | 10  | 1 990  |
| Greece         | 439   | 125   | 136   | 214   | 30  | 944    |
| Spain          | 817   | 171   | 389   | 365   | 46  | 1 788  |
| France         | 1 225 | 110   | 469   | 627   | 55  | 2 486  |
| Ireland        | 226   | 20    | 117   | 197   | 7   | 567    |
| Italy          | 1 005 | 167   | 567   | 827   | 208 | 2 774  |
| Luxembourg     | 44    | 8     | 69    | 172   | 36  | 329    |
| Netherlands    | 362   | 64    | 184   | 137   | 8   | 755    |
| Austria        | 219   | 15    | 97    | 89    | 10  | 430    |
| Portugal       | 289   | 125   | 128   | 201   | 28  | 771    |
| Finland        | 215   | 112   | 144   | 120   | 7   | 598    |
| Sweden         | 261   | 96    | 116   | 120   | 5   | 598    |
| United Kingdom | 773   | 173   | 248   | 288   | 9   | 1 491  |
| Others         | 15    | 48    | 4     | 9     | 1   | 77     |
| Total          | 8 045 | 1 724 | 4 414 | 6 259 | 724 | 21 166 |

(2004/C 84 E/0785)

**WRITTEN QUESTION P-0949/04****by Raffaele Costa (PPE-DE) to the Commission***(22 March 2004)**Subject:* Difficulties for the Italian steel industry

A increasing number of Italian operators in the steel industry have complained of an adverse trend in production. This alarming situation has many causes: firstly raw materials (hematite cast iron, nodular cast iron, iron and steel scrap, coke, etc.) are increasingly expensive, in particular following the restrictions on exports introduced by the Chinese Government and the massive consumption of these materials by China and other Asian countries (one third of the world's steel production is absorbed by China). Many employees also complain of problems caused by the fact that Italian legislation classifies scrap metal as waste. These and other factors have led to exponential increases in the cost of raw materials for foundries over the last twelve months, as much as between 45 and 70 % for scrap metal and 60 and 100 % for ferro-alloys (molybdenum, nickel and vanadium). The situation seems unsustainable and may result in serious crises in manufacturing and employment even in the short term.

Can the Commission say what urgent measures will be taken to tackle these problems and whether it does not intend to try to persuade the Beijing government to agree to trade arrangements that are less unfavourable for Community firms in the sector?