

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004019/25
to the Commission
Nikos Pappas (The Left)
(14 October 2025)**

Subject: Ensuring the reliability of language certificates in the European Union

Language certification is a key tool for mobility and access to work and education within the EU. However, there is an increasing incidence of the use of fake or questionable certificates, which do not comply with the Common European Framework of Reference for language qualifications (CEFR). This phenomenon creates conditions of unfair competition and undermines meritocracy.

In Greece and other Member States, such as Italy and Spain, cases of the use of unreliable certificates in public tenders have been recorded, while related concerns have also been expressed in Romania and Bulgaria.

According to a relevant report by the Council of Europe, the need to combat fraud in language certification is an emerging European priority. ⁽¹⁾

Can the Commission say:

1. How is the compliance of language qualifications with the CEFR ensured?
2. Will the Commission propose a common European mechanism for checking the authenticity of certificates?
3. Will the Commission consider measures to protect equal opportunities in employment and education against the use of false or unreliable language qualifications?

Submitted: 14.10.2025

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Minzatu on behalf of the European Commission
(10 December 2025)**

The Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) is an instrument of the Council of Europe. As such, the Commission does not monitor compliance with CEFR.

Additionally, the Council of Europe established in June 2025 the European Centre for the Prevention of Education Fraud in Rome. Among its core tasks are the development and implementation of digital tools and mechanisms to detect and prevent diploma mills, forged credentials, and other forms of academic fraud.

Member States are responsible for guaranteeing the quality and fairness of testing and assessment in line with existing guidelines ⁽¹⁾. Reputable certification bodies also usually make publicly available information demonstrating how their alignment with the CEFR was established.

Consequently, the Commission is not planning to propose anything in this area. However, the European Digital Credentials for learning ⁽²⁾ (EDCs) are already available. This is a secure, EU-wide system to issue, store, and verify digital documents related to learning achievements. EDCs could play a role in verifying the authenticity of language level attestations and ensuring that credentials have not been tampered with. This could also help against the use of false or unreliable language qualifications.

¹ https://www.coe.int/en/web/common-european-framework-reference-languages/newsroom/-/asset_publisher/C1CM5F8C1tj/content/combating-fraud-in-language-certification-a-new-council-of-europe-project
¹ <https://www.coe.int/en/web/common-european-framework-reference-languages/responsability-of-member-states>
² <https://europass.europa.eu/en/european-digital-credentials-learning>