

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002436/26
to the Commission
Pascal Arimont (PPE)
(12 June 2026)**

Subject: Discriminatory treatment of dual citizens in the university admission process

In border regions in particular, transnational mobility plays a key role in the daily life of the population. This also applies to the mobility of young people for the purposes of learning and study. In the context of the common objective of free movement of Union citizens, the following matter has arisen and needs to be assessed:

The author of this question was recently made aware of a case involving a young prospective student holding dual citizenship of two Member States of the Union (Belgium and Germany), who, prior to commencing studies at a German university, is required to have his Belgian school leaving qualification (Abitur) recognised by the competent administration of the German Land concerned.

What is particularly remarkable about this additional administrative burden is that the applicant's German citizenship is the decisive factor here: If he did not hold German citizenship (but only that of Belgium), the German university would, paradoxically, accept his Belgian qualification as sufficient for admission even without prior German recognition.

A citizen of the Union is thus placed at a disadvantage by virtue of his dual nationality, with an additional administrative burden in one of his two home States, which he would be spared if he did not hold the corresponding nationality.

1. Does the Commission consider that such admission procedures comply with EU law?
2. What is the Commission's assessment of such admission practices in the light of the concept of the single market and cross-border educational mobility?
3. To what extent does the Commission plan to address this aspect in the forthcoming 'Skills Portability Initiative'?

Submitted: 12.6.2026

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Minzatu on behalf of the European Commission
(28 July 2026)**

In relation to this case, the Commission does not have sufficient information (in particular regarding the specific Land or university concerned) to carry out a full assessment at this stage.

The Commission would suggest inviting the citizen concerned to submit a complaint (Make a complaint | European Union ⁽¹⁾), which the Commission stands ready to examine and, if warranted, to take appropriate action.

In the spirit of further promoting mobility in all fields of study and actively removing obstacles to mobility in education, the Skills Portability Initiative to be soon announced by the Commission will help further improve the transparency, recognition and transferability of skills and qualifications across Member States.

Announced as part of the Union of Skills in March 2025 and forming part of the Fair Mobility Package, the initiative seeks to enable skilled workers to move more easily within Europe, while supporting employers in hiring across borders.

It will focus primarily on professional qualifications and their cross-border recognition to enhance labour mobility, rather than on the recognition of secondary education for entrance to universities.

⁽¹⁾ https://european-union.europa.eu/contact-eu/make-complaint_en.