

## The language regime for EPSO competitions: Citizen-unfriendly and plain stupid

Luxembourg, 12<sup>th</sup> January 2017

After a rather turbulent period, where a fantasy language regime for competitions was brought back to earth by several sentences of the General Court of the EU, an interesting and creative approach has been proposed and will be used by EPSO for "generalist" competitions starting with the AD5 competition to be published soon.

Participants will be asked, when they submit their candidacy, which official languages they have sufficient knowledge of. The assessment centre tests will then be held in the five most often mentioned languages.

Two special cases need to be borne in mind:

- a) Candidates who declare the same level of knowledge of more than one of the languages in which the assessment centre will work (e.g. Candidate with main language NL who declares B2 level knowledge of English and French);
- b) Candidates who don't declare sufficient knowledge of any of the languages retained for the assessment centre at the end of the process.

Whereas the approach adopted by EPSO

Ø **for case A** is logical, the candidate is asked to choose,

Ø the solution that EPSO has adopted **for case B** is completely illogical. The candidate is not asked to choose amongst the languages offered but is **simply excluded** from the competition.

Let's be honest: it's highly unlikely that a candidate for an EPSO competition would not have sufficient knowledge of one of the five languages chosen -which are likely to be English, French, Spanish, German and Italian- but if that were to happen, why not ask the candidate to choose one of the available languages? Some could try their luck and use the time available to improve their language knowledge.

But that would be too **citizen friendly** so **EPSO chooses the other solution: exclude them!**

Apart from being **unfriendly to candidates**, it's also an unwise solution because it could lead to candidates declaring, when in doubt, knowledge at a sufficient level of **MANY OFFICIAL LANGUAGES** to reduce the risk of being excluded.

**Union Syndicale** asks the Board of EPSO to reverse this decision speedily - it is bad both for citizens and the work of EPSO itself.



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