

EN
E-001602/2019
Answer given by Mr Oettinger
on behalf of the European Commission
(10.7.2019)

The Commission employs two types of contract agents: those engaged for an indefinite period and those engaged for a limited period of time. There are therefore two types of selection procedures that apply to candidates from all Member States without any discrimination.

The Commission applies and has applied consistently over time (including in 2009) a simple rule: contract agents engaged for an indefinite period need to pass a selection procedure including both a general part and a specialised part (field related).

The selection procedure EPSO/CAST/CRO/09 did not include any specialised part and therefore cannot allow for the engagement on indefinite duration contracts.

This is not the result of a retroactive application of the rules (these principles were in place before 2009 and have not changed since). This is not discriminatory either since applicants of all nationalities are treated the same.

The incorporation of the database of laureates into the general database of selection laureates (Permanent CAST) would have no bearing on the analysis. The databases are kept separate for technical reasons but even if a merger of the databases were possible this would not change the situation as regards the fact that the laureates of the selection EPSO/CAST/CRO/09 have not passed any field related competency test.

As indicated in earlier replies, the Commission notes that Croatian citizens have not been discriminated against, that they can apply to the current Permanent CAST selection procedures as any other citizen and that the number of contract agents of Croatian citizenship employed by the Commission is fully in line with the needs of the Institution.