

**Question for written answer E-015695/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Izaskun Bilbao Barandica (ALDE)

Subject: Job prospects for university students and the Bologna system

The changes in higher education brought about by the Bologna reform have also curtailed the options open to students in planning their university studies. Normally it costs more to enrol for a master's degree than for a bachelor's degree. Consequently, many students choose only the second option. However, depending on the number of credits and, in particular, hours of teaching, degree studies can be equivalent to postgraduate studies. Many students are concerned that further changes might leave no room for graduates who do not have at least a master's degree. Moreover, while the intention is for qualifications to be recognised EU-wide, the attitude of some professional bodies has been only to recognise master's degrees from their own country.

1. Is there any EU-wide data on the impact of the cost differential between bachelor's and master's degrees on the decisions taken by European university students?
2. Is it legal for a professional body not to recognise as a qualified professional a person who has completed an officially accredited master's course in another Member State?
3. Might this state of affairs harm the job prospects of students with more limited resources?