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I am uncomfortably aware that in North America any reference that doesn't say that the applicant walks on water is regarded as negative, and taken as a reason to bin the application. This is not only foolish (no-one walks on water) but is also counter-productive and—one might add—culturally insensitive. The (european) cultural context in which I write references is one in which, as a senior member of my profession, I have a duty of care to all who work in it: my references are straight. I think it is fair to ask that the document that led you here be read with that in mind.

Thank you for your attention. Please read on.