COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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ADMISSION TO INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION
OF STUDENTS FROM OTHER MEMBER STATES

(Communication from the Commission to the Council)

SUMMARY

The action programme in education adopted by the Council and Ministers of Education in their Resolution of 9 February 1976 provided for a discussion to be held, including representatives of higher education institutions, on the possibility of developing a common policy on the admission to higher education of students from other Member States.

This discussion was held in September 1977, and an analysis of the problems, together with suggested solutions, was prepared and circulated by the services of the Commission in February 1978. On the basis of that analysis and in the light of reactions to it, the present Communication sets out specific proposals for the consideration of the Council and Ministers of Education at their meeting on 27 November 1978.

ADMISSION TO INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION OF STUDENTS FROM OTHER MEMBER STATES

I. INTRODUCTION

The action programme in education adopted by the Council and Ministers of Education of the Member States in their Resolution of 9 February 1976 incorporated, in a section devoted to co-operation in higher education, a series of actions designed to promote the free movement and mobility of both staff and students.

The number of students who undertake courses of study in other Member States of the Community is at present very small. In 1975/76 the total figure was some 21.000, representing only 0.5% of total enrolments. Some steps have already been taken at Community level to encourage and facilitate greater mobility. Grants have, for example, been made available for the development of joint programmes of study between higher education institutions in different Community countries. A Handbook for Students giving information and guidance on admission practices and procedures in all Member States has been published by the Commission in all Community languages. These measures, however, while helping to ease and encourage a greater degree of student movement can only make a limited contribution The need is for an initiative that demonstrates the importance which is attached, within the Community to a significant expansion of the opportunities for students to spend at least a part of their period of higher education in another Member State, and thus to benefit from the broadening and enrichment of their education which such an experience could provide.

Recognising this, the action programme provided for a discussion to be held, including representatives of higher education institutions, on the possibility of developing a common policy on the admission to higher education of students from other Member States. Such a discussion was accordingly held in September 1977 in Bonn, and in the light of the

education services of the Commission prepared a detailed analysis of the existing problems arising from the existing policies and practices of Member States so far as the admission of Community students is concerned together with suggested means of resolving them. This document was sent to Member States in February 1978 for consultations within each country. On the basis of the analysis contained in the consultative document, and in the light of reactions to it, the present paper now sets out such specific proposals.

Annex A provides a summary indication of present practices in each Member State and of the present scale of intra-Community student movement. The existing flow of students between Member States, influenced as it is by a variety of historical, geographical and linguistic, as well as academic and financial considerations, is not a balanced one, and one important objective, in the context of an overall increase in mobility is to stimulate movement in directions in which it is at present very limited.

Every Member State both "exports" students for higher education in other Community countries and "imports" students from other Community countries. Thus for each Member State there should be a relationship between the arrangements for the admission of Community students in its country, and those for the reception of its students by other Community countries. It is accordingly proposed that a common approach be adopted, based on the following principles:

- (a) that national policies should reflect the objective of the education action programme to increase the intra-Community mobility of students and eliminate obstacles to movement;
- (b) that such policies should be based on Member States recognition of their interdependence and mutual responsibilities in the context of admission of students from other Community countries; and
- (c) that individuals should be admitted to institutions in the host country on a basis not less favorable than the host country's own students.

It is on this basis that the proposals in Section II below have been formulated. It must be understood, however, that such proposals are without prejudice to the fact that in certain respects the admission of students is already subject to Community law. Thus:

- (a) those who enjoy the right of stay in a Member State by virtue of Articles 48 and 52 of the EEC Treaty cannot be the object of any discrimination as regards access to education in the host Member State;
- (b) a person who wishes to establish himself in a Member State to exercise a professional activity and who must, for this purpose, obtain a qualification of the host State, cannot be the object of any prohibition of access to higher education in that State.

It is also recognised that the proposals extend to aspects of admission policy which, in some Member States, may be the responsibility not of governments but of higher education institutions themselves, individually or collectively. It is understood that in such cases adoption of a proposal would represent a commitment to recommend and encourage the competent authorities to act accordingly.

The proposals are set out in the paragraphs which follow, grouped under the following categories:

- A Numerical limitation on admission
- B Admission criteria
- C Financial conditions of admission
- D Linguistic requirements
- E Administrative procedures
- F Information and policy consultation.

II. PROPOSALS

A. On Numerical Limitation

1. Where in any Member State a policy of numerical limitation on admission exists, whether overall or in specific parts of the higher education system, a reasonable number of places is to be made available for students from other Community countries. The interpretation of what is reasonable is to be made in the light of a continuing review of existing levels of mobility, and the objective of increasing such movement.

- 2. Students from other Community countries to be excluded from numerical limitation provisions in the host country when their period of study abroad is a component part of an overall course to be completed at their home institution.
- 3. Every encouragement to be given also to reciprocal arrangements between institutions for the exchange of students.
- 4. At Community level proposals to be developed, in consultation with representatives of higher education, to facilitate and extend the transferability within the Community of credits for periods of study abroad.

B. On Admission Criteria, (other than linguistic knowledge)

- 5. Applicants from other Member States not to be subject to non-academic conditions which are not also applicable to home students, nor are such applicants to be required to pass additional tests or examinations, not required of home students.
- 6. Academic conditions for admission to a first-level full-course to be based on the possession by applicants of a qualification sufficient for them to be eligible for admission to a higher education institution in their home state, supplemented where necessary by any additional requirements imposed equally on home students.
- 7. For "part-course" students (as defined in 2 above), the main weight to be placed on the willingness of the home institution to accept the period of study abroad as part of the student's course leading to the home institution qualification.

C. On Financial Aspects

- 8. Where tuition fees are payable in a Member State, the fees for students from other Community countries to be not higher than those applicable to home students.
- 9. In cases where fees are payable in respect of home students but where national arrangements effectively absolve individual students from the payment of fees, appropriate arrangements to the same effect to be made for students from other Community countries.

- 10. Grants held by students in their home countries to be readily tenable also for a period of study in another Member State, provided that the study period concerned is recognised by the home institution as part of the total course for which the grant was awarded.
- 11. At Community level, proposals to be prepared for overcoming the problem of cost-of-living differentials between the Member States, as it affects student mobility.

D. On Linguistic Requirements

- 12. Requirements of linguistic competence for taking up courses of study in host country institutions to be related to the needs of the particular course of study concerned. Evidence of such competence to be provided and appraised before commencement of the course. Consideration to be given at Community level to the feasibility of designating, in each Member State, specific certificates to be recognised for this purpose.
- 13. In order to enable students where necessary to improve their linguistic competence in the host country, before commencing their course, proposals to be prepared at Community level for a co-operative scheme of provision, in all Member States, of appropriate facilities for intensive learning of the language of the host country, geared to students' needs.

E. On Administrative Procedures

- 14. At Community level, discussion to be held with representatives of higher education institutions, to determine a common list of the basic information and documentation required from all applicants from other Member States.
- 15. Information to be assembled at Community level on the arrangements in each Mamber State for receiving and advising foreign students; and regular meetings to be held of representatives of those responsible for such arrangements, so as to exchange experience and identify problems.

F. On Information and Policy Consultation

- 16. As a basis for regular review of the scale and directions of student movement between Community countries and the effect of policies of numerical limitation on such movement, information to be compiled at Community level and communicated regularly to Member States.
- 17. Any Member State considering a change in its policies concerning the admission of students from other Community countries to consult within the Education Committee before taking action.

ANNEX A

EXISTING PROVISIONS

IN MEMBER STATES OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES CONCERNING

ADMISSION OF STUDENTS FROM OTHER MEMBER STATES

NUMERICAL RESTRICTIONS

COUNTRY	EXISTING PROVISIONS
Belgium	The law does not actually fix any numerical limitation. Nevertheless, it limits to 2%, by discipline, the number of foreign students who can be admitted on the same conditions as Belgians. This limitation affects only the financial conditions (tuition fees).
	However, certain categories of foreigners fall outside this percentage and are admitted without restriction on the same conditions as Belgians. These include:
	- students of Luxembourg nationality - foreign students whose parents (or guardians) are (or have been) working in Belgium and are nationals of a Member State - students from a country which has concluded a cultural agreement with Belgium and who receive a grant in the framework of such agreement.
	The individual institutions are, however, free either to admit or reject students whose studies they have to finance themselves. Thus in 1976/77:
	- several institutions limit their intake of foreign students (inc. EC) to the 2% quota (in one case 3%) - some others impose numerical restrictions only in medicine (e.g. 50% of the intake of Belgians; a fixed number of 20 for each country of origin; a fixed upper limit of 60 for foreign students as a whole; admission only for Dutch and Germans).
Denmark	≠ From 1977/78 onwards, the maximum number of students to be admitted in every subject, or category of subjects, will be regulated by the Minister for Education.
	Foreign nationals with foreign entrance qualifications are only admitted to medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, veterinary science, agriculture and civil engineering, if they have a close connection with Denmark fe.g. residence in Denmark for 2 years).
	 A 10% quota is reserved for other foreign applicants with foreign entrance qualifications (and other special categories).
	= "Guest students" who wish to take a part of their higher education in Denmark, are admitted to a later part of the study without restrictions, if only for a shorter period.

Numerical Restrictions (continued)

· COUNTRY	EXISTING PROVISIONS
France	. Special quotas for foreign students exist in most "Grandes Ecoles" and "écoles d'ingenieurs"
	At universities there are no numerical restrictions for foreign students, except that at universities in the Paris region the quota of foreign students admitted to commence medical studies is 5% of the total number of home students
	Foreign students may be obliged to study at an institution which does not represent their first choice
Federal Republic of Germany	In courses of study with restricted admission for beginners a quota of up to 6% of available places in medicine, dentistry veterinary science and pharmacy; and up to 8% of places in other subjects with restricted admissions is reserved for foreigners (including nationals of Community countries).
	In all other courses of study there are no restrictions on the numbers of foreign students admitted.
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Ireland	At some institutions there is a quota of 5% or 10% of total intake in each subject for foreign (incl. EC except for those covered by Regulation 1612/68) students wishing to take a whole course of study
	At individual institutions one or more of the following restrictions may apply to forcign students, the distinction between 'Irish' and 'forcign' being almost exclusively one of residence rather than nationality:
	- no students from abroad/from industrialized countries admitted to medicine and/or dentistry - no students from abroad/from industrialized countries admitted to medicine, dentistry, veterinary science, artistecture, social science, physiotherapy except where very specific residence requirements fulfilled
	■ Flexible arrangements exist for postgraduate and 'occasional' students
1	10 - ストース・ファイス・ストース・ストース・ストーストーストーストース Application には 10 - ストーストーストーストーストーストーストーストーストライス Application には、アイストーストライストーストライストーストライストーストライストーストライストーストライストーストライストーストライストーストライストーストライストーストライストーストライストーストーストライストーストライストーストライストーストーストーストーストーストーストーストーストーストーストーストーストース

COUNTRY	EXISTING PROVISIONS
Luxeaburg	In the Centre Universitaire the number of foreign students in médicine is held at between 8% and 10% for reasons of capacity
	The national teacher-training institution Institut universitaire does not admit foreign students
Netherlands	- The Minister of Education determines each pear the maximum number of foreign students who can be admitted to medicine, dentistry and veterinary science. EC applicants covered by Regulation 1612/68 are among the categories to which preferential treatment is given (see under Selection Criteria below)
United Kingdom	Apart from certain minor exceptions at individual institutions in Norther Ireland foreign students have hitherto not been subject to restrictions over and above the overall limitations on intake which most British institutions apply in each subject
	In view of the recent rapid growth in overseas student numbers, however, the government has proposed that the intakes of overseas students in future should be such as to stabilize total numbers at recent levels.

SELECTION CRITERIA

(in addition to basic entrance qualification, e.g. secondary school leaving cortificate)
(excluding the use of a linguistic proficiency requirement as an instrument of selection: for this see separate section below on linguistic requirements)

COUNTRY	EXISTING PROVISIONS
Belgium	The law does not fix supplementary selection criteria. The selection criteria are determined by the institutions.
	Individual institutions at present apply one or more of the following criteria, in particular in admissions to medicine:
	- proof of admission / not having been rejected in home country where there are restricted admissions in subject concerned
	Belgian entrance qualification or special entrance examination to be passed especial motivation for wishing to study at a particular
	institution - assessment of probability of success - particularly good marks in specific subjects in school leaving examination - secondary schooling in Belgium
	residence qualification
Derimark	No differentiation is being made between Danish and foreign nationals with a Danish entrance qualification or between Danish nationals and EC applicants to whom Regulation 1612/68 applies. These applicants are selected according to the average mark of their school leaving certificate (applicants with the highest average marks by
	first). It is possible to improve one successions working experience of a certain duration. Selection among foreign applicants with foreign admission qualifications (excluding EEC nationals covered by Regulation No. 1612/68) is the responsi
Prance	bility of the institution. For admission to a "Grande Ecole":
	additional entrance examination (sometimes waived for foreign applicants with adequate qualifications)
	For admission to a university:
	evidence of having attained a level equivalent to that required of French students wishing to enter the particular phase of study condermed, and evidence that the qualification presented would make the applicant eligible for admission to an equivalent level in his or her home country

COUNTRY	EXISTING PROVISIONS
Fedoral Republic of Germany	The Standing Conference of Ministers of Fancation of the Länder (States) specifies that foreign stadents must prove that
	- on the basis of the marks in their entrance qualification they would have been able to study in their home country and that - they have attained a level such as to suggest that they will be able to follow a course of study profitably
	In courses with restricted admissions, foreign students are selected first and foremost on the basis of their level of qualifications. Special consideration may also be given to applicants who:
	 have successfully completed a course of secondary education at a German school abroad have been awarded a scholarship by a German body concerned with assisting gifted students on the basis of special regulations, have a place reserved for them on the course specified in their application when they are admitted to a Studienkolleg (special institute to prepare adults for university) or similar institution come from a country where there are no facilities for studying the subject concerned belong to a German-speaking minority in another country.
	# For certain subjects students must have completed a prescribed period of practical work
	* Agreements between states and/or institutions of higher education are taken into account.
Ireland	In general particularly good marks in relevant subjects in school leaving certificate required for admission to specific subjects
	Individual institutions may apply additional criteria in certain subjects, e.g. residence qualification, entrance examinations, tests and interviews, or give preference to applicants whose parents graduated from the institution concerned
	* Students from other countries are required to have achieved at their school-leaving examinations the same minimum standard as that required of Irish students for entry to particular courses in higher education.

COUNTRY	EXISTING PROVISIONS
Italy.	= Law no. 901 of 19 July 1956 states:
	"Foreigners from countries in which there is a numerical restriction on university enrolment shall, in order to obtain admission to universities and institutes of higher education in the Republic of Italy, pass two separate examinations designed to ascertain their ability to attend courses at the faculties in which they intend to enrol and their command of the Italian language. The examinations will be oral, and will be carried out according to the procedures laid down by the individual faculties and schools. Anyone who does not reach the necessary level may not be admitted and may not repeat the tests until the following academic year. Entrance examinations may not be taken at universities or institutes in different locations in the same year."
Luxonbourg	In certain subjects particularly good marks in the school leaving certificate are required.
Netherlands	For medicine, dentistry and veterinary science, selection of foreign students is at present carried out by lottery, weighted in favour of certain categories, including foreign holding a diploma obtained in the Netherlands which makes them eligible for university study in the Netherlands, or whose parents have been resident for a considerable time in the Netherlands, and nationals from another EC Member State to whom Regulation 1612/63 applies.
	For all other disciplines the rules of admission for foreigners are the same as for Dutch students.
United Kingdon	Admissions are at the discretion of individual institution. Most institutions require particularly good marks in school leaving certificate in subjects related to the chosen course of study.
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TUITION FEES

(information available was insufficient for compilation of a table on registration feet and fees for various kinds of services provded) (isolated types of financial conditions on admission of foreign students such as requirement to deposit 'caution money' have also been disregarded)

COUNTRY	EXISTING PROVISIONS
Belgium ,	Universities
	- All foreign students pay the tuition fees also payable by Belgian students (BF 6600 in 1977/78)
	In addition, students not falling under one of the categories taken into consideration in calculating the operational grants allocated by the State to institutions of higher education (for details see under Numerical Restrictions above) may be required to pay additional tuition fees amounting to 50% of the actual cost of providing a place in the subject concerned, ranging in 1977/78 from RF 60,000 in arts subjects to RF 180,000 in subjects such as medicine, dentistry, veterinary science and pharmacy. The individual institutions are, however, at liberty to decide whether or not to impose these supplementary fees. At present some institutions do, others do not. Other Higher Education
	In principle, Belgian and foreign students pay the same fees, which may vary from subject to subject. Never— theless, additional fees are charged to foreign students who do not belong to one of the following categories:
	- students with a parent of Belgian nationality, or resident in Belgium - students in the responsibilities of a Belgian national who receives family allowance - children of foreign workers inscribed on the register of population or of foreigners - foreign students who exercise a regular professional activity in Belgium, or hold a work permit A or B, or receive unemployment benefit - foreign pupils or students who have attended a Belgian school for a limited period by virtue of reciprocal arrangements under cultural agreements, or hold a Belgian grant.
Denmark	None None
France	- None (at public institutions)

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COUNTRY	EXISTING PROVISIONS
Federal Republic	· None
Iroland	A surcharge of 50% at the colleges of the National University of Ireland and 60% at the University of Dublin is imposed on all students not resident in Ireland (including Northern Ireland). The fees vary from institution to institution and from subject to subject. In the colleges of the National University for example in the academic year 1976/77 fees for the first year courses for non-residents ranged, for courses in Arts or Commerce, from £188 to £243 and for courses in Medicine from £325 to £388. In some cases the surcharge is waived for mature students, students born abroad of Irish parents, or for foreign students who have been to secondary school in Ireland. It is also waived for students to whom EEC Regulation 1612/68 applies. The surcharge is normally payable by all students whose fees are paid for by non-Irish authorities.
	Postgraduate fees, in which at some institutions there is no surcharge for students resident outside Ireland, also differ according to discipline.
Italy	Foreign students pay the same tuition fees as Italian students. Fees vary from institution to institution, up to about 80,000 Lire per annum.
Luxemburg	None
Netherlands	Foreign students pay the same tuition fees (FL 500) as Dutch students.
	In certain cases, the payment of tuition fees is limited to FL 65.50 per year for one course/hour per week. In higher vocational education (daytime study) the tuition fee is FL 500 per year (part-course FL 200-300 per year)

Tuition Fors (continued)

COUNTRY	EXISTING PROVISION	vs	
United Kingdom	Individual universities and lefix their commence levels. How public expenditure on higher a institutions the Government as riate to a certain level of fees be imposed at this level, in practice, in the adoption of recommendations. The recommendations for 1977/7 university postgraduate university undergraduate	wever, in call and further sumes fee in sees and record this norm of the govern 8 are: home £750 £500	lculating education noome appropulation appr
	advanced further education (full time)	£500	£650
	The distinction between 'homo' basically one of residence rat In Northern Ireland universiti education there is no fee difforerseas students.	her than nat es and advan	ionality.

LINGUISTIC REQUIREMENTS

COUNTRY	EXISTING PROVISIONS
Belgium	good knowledge of the teaching language (Dutch, French) required. Language examinations normally imposed
Denmark	good knowledge of Danish required at some institutions in all disciplines, at others only in subjects with restricted admissions (e.g. medicine)
France	evidence of knowledge of French must be produced at preliminary application stage ("pre-inscription")
Federal Republic	evidence of knowledge of German required
Ireland	knowledge of English required (usually on basis of entrance qualification presented)
Italy	knowledge of Italian tested by interview by department at the university at which the student is to be enrolled
	(oral examinations to ascertain knowledge of the Italian language are being carried out on an experimental basis abroad).
Luxemburg	• knowledge of French required
Netherlands	.knowledge of Dutch required
United Kingdom	proficiency test in English or evidence of a satisfacto command of the larguage required
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	TOTAL +)	1,264	454	3,200	2,911	1,969	3,641	4,185	972	2,5% (300)	21,679
	Nother- lands 76/77	871	16	2	82	•	662	113	•		269
•	reland 75/76			•	\ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \		2	955		~	993
	U.K. 75/76	IÓI	8	318	275	65	672		580	Z 1	2,247
	Fed.Rep. of Ger- any 75/76	392	208	2,264	817	959		1,034	**	1,327	6,750
	15/76 75/76										52
	82/22 **)		, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	92		4	503	239	•	•	845
	France 74/75	612	****		1,208	169	1,770	1,705	5	569	6,480
	Dermark 75/76										730
	8elgiun 75/76		12	463	576	555	_382	139		724	2,916
	Host country Country of Origin	m.c.a	Dermark	* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *		Luxeabourg	Germany		Ireland	Retherlands	TOTAL

COMMUNITY STUDENTS IN OTHER MEMBER STATES BY HOST COUNTRY AND BY COUNTRY OF DRIGHT

The horizontal totals by different countries of origin do not include students from Member States studying in Denmark and Luxembourr. Their total number is however included in the last Line.

These figures relate only to the numbers of students newly enrolled in that year

ANNEX B

ACTION : ADMISSION TO INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION OF STUDENTS FROM OTHER MEMBER STATES

Concise financial note for budgetary authority, relating to proposals for new actions

- 1. <u>Budget line</u>
- 392 Expenditure relating to action in the field of education.
- 2. Details of Budget line

Post 392 Educational measures.

3. Legal base

Resolution of the council and of the Ministers of Education meeting within the Council, of 9 February 1976, composing a programme of action in the field of education (0.J. of 19.2.1976); in particular, paragraph IV 14 which reads:

In order to promote the free movement and mobility of teaching staff, students and researchers, the following action will be undertaken at Community level:

- the arrangement of a discussion involving representatives of higher education institutions on the question of developing a common policy on the admission of students from other Member States to higher education institutions,
- _
- the drawing up of proposals designed to eliminate obstacles to the mobility of students and of university teaching and research staff.

Objectives of the actions

4.1.0. <u>General objective</u>

The general objective is to promote mobility of students in higher education in the European Community.

4.1.1. Specific objectives of the actions and their contribution to the general objective

- (a) To reduce the influence of numerus clausus regulations of different

 Member States on the mobility of students in the European Community.
- (b) To abolish differences in admission criteria between home students and students of other Member States.
- (c) To abolish differences in charging of tuition fees between home students and students of other Member States.
- (d) To assure the tenability of national grants in all other Member States.
- (e) To promote the linguistic competence of students in the host country.
- (f) To promote measures in order to facilitate administrative procedures and student counselling.
- (g) To promote exchange of information of student movement in the Community and on major changes in admission policies of the Member States.

5. Financial implications of the actions (in EUA)

Action	1979	1980
Development of proposals for the extension of transferabi within the Community of cred periods of study in another Member State	lity	90.000
Old Development of scheme for the overcoming of cost of living differentials between Member States as it affects student		20.000
D13 Development of co-operative scheme of provision for intensive learning of language of the host country		50.000
E14 Determination of a common light of information and documental required for admission purposers of other Members of States	tion ses	10.000

Action 1979 1980

E15 Meetings of representatives 20.000 30.000, for student counselling

5.1. <u>Implication for revenues</u> Not applicable

6. <u>Financing</u>

6.0. Possible financing by means of credits inscribed in the given chapter of the current budget

Financing is possible within the Draft budget for 1979.

6.1. Financing by virement

None.

6.2. Need for supplementary budget

None.

6.3. <u>Credits to be inscribed in future budgets</u>

Estimated expenditure for 1980 has been given above.

Expenditure from 1981 onwards cannot be foreseen until 1980.

7. <u>Information concerning personnel needed for implementation of the action</u>

The estimated staff resources needed in 1980 in the Commission's services for execution of the actions are 1 A, 1 C.