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<td>Title:</td>
<td>Green Paper on the Modernization of the Professional Qualification Directive - Public Consultation</td>
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<td>Author:</td>
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DEAR ALL,

In January this year, the European Commission launched a Public Consultation on the evaluation and review of the Directive on Recognition of Professional Qualifications. The AEMH has responded to this consultation in March. You will find the document elaborated by the chair of the WG, Signe Gerd Blindheim, here attached.

In the follow-up of this consultation the European Commission released now the awaited Green Paper on the Modernization of the Professional Qualifications Directive (Directive 2005/36/EC). The Green Paper is aimed at gathering stakeholders’ views and launches a new Public Consultation to which everybody is welcome to contribute. Stakeholders are particularly invited to respond on
- new approaches to mobility
- ways to build on achievements
- and on the modernisation of the automatic recognition.

Deadline : 20 September 2011.

Moreover, in order to give feedback about the reactions to the Green paper, the Commission organises a public Conference on the Modernisation of the Professional Qualifications Directive on the 7th November 2011.

You will find here below the press release of the European Commission. The Green paper and a Briefing Memo are here attached.

This gives of course a new mission to the AEMH working group but we call on all delegates to send their comments and give input to this important matter.

Brigitte Jencik
AEMH - European Liaison Office
Association Européenne des Médecins des Hôpitaux
European Association of Senior Hospital Physicians
Rue Guimard, 15
B-1040 Brussels
Tel. +32 2 736 60 66
Tax +32 2 732 99 72
e-mail: secretariat@aemh.org
http://www.aemh.org
European Commission seeks to modernise Professional Qualifications Directive


Internal Market Commissioner Michel Barnier said "Updating the Professional Qualifications Directive is one of the priorities of the Single Market Act and will help make the European economy more competitive while encouraging growth and job creation. We need to make it easier for professionals to go to where job vacancies exist. We will consider a number of important issues during this process including the creation of a professional card for interested professions and improving the training requirements for certain professions."

The Green Paper outlines possible ways forward that build on past achievements while developing new approaches to enhance mobility:

For instance, the introduction of a professional card closely linked to the Internal Market Information System (IMI) could make it considerably easier for professionals to have their qualifications recognised in another Member State. A professional card issued by a competent authority in the professional's home Member State could then allow the professional to demonstrate his/her credentials (having the necessary qualifications, being authorised to practise) to consumers, employers and relevant authorities in another Member State.

Similarly, stakeholders are invited to give their input about the potential of new common platforms to facilitate the mobility of professionals where there is no automatic recognition by developing sets of commonly agreed criteria for professional qualifications. They could be used to reduce differences in training requirements.

In addition, the minimum training requirements of certain professions (e.g. some health professions and architects) could be reformed. To that end, certain adjustments to the duration and content of training, as well as possibly changing the requisite language skills for health professions, could be necessary. This would also strengthen the legitimacy of automatic recognition of qualifications.

Stakeholders are invited to respond to the consultation by 20 September 2011. The Commission will subsequently organise a high level conference on 7 November 2011. A legislative proposal is foreseen for December 2011.

Background


The primary aim of this is to facilitate mobility of EU citizens for professional purposes. It is one of the twelve levers for growth proposed in the Commission’s Single Market Act (IP/11/469). The Green Paper follows a report of how the Directive works in practice (IP/10/1367) and a first technical-level public consultation launched in January 2011 (IP/11/14). A final evaluation report, as well as a summary of the responses to the first consultation, will be published by the end of June.

The consultation document can be found here:


See also MEMO/11/438

For further information: http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/qualifications/index_en.htm