

CITIZENS' SUMMARY

MODERNISATION OF THE PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS DIRECTIVE

DIRECTIVE AMENDING DIRECTIVE 2005/36/EC ON THE RECOGNITION OF PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

THE PROBLEM

- The rules defined in Directive 2005/36/EC for the recognition of qualifications are not adapted to the need of an evolving labour market, where the mobility of professionals across the EU is essential to respond to labour shortages in key sectors of the economy. In particular, long and complex recognition procedures do not allow professionals to react quickly to job opportunities in other Member States.
- Citizens seeking the recognition of their professional qualifications in another EU Member State experience difficulties in finding hands-on information on what to do to obtain the recognition of their qualifications. In addition, the limited use of electronic means for submitting recognition requests makes the recognition procedures more cumbersome for the applicants.
- The minimum training requirements, agreed between the 1970's and the 1990's for seven professions¹ which benefit from automatic recognition of the qualifications, need to be updated in order to better reflect the current practice of these professions.

WHY IS THE EU PROPOSING THIS MEASURE?

Rules allowing EU citizens qualified in one Member State to have their professional qualifications recognised in the other Member States can only be established at EU level.

The proposal aims at facilitating the mobility of professionals across the 27 Member States, notably by reducing the complexity of recognition procedures.

HOW WILL THE PROPOSAL HELP?

The proposal will **facilitate the mobility of professionals** by:

- introducing a **European professional card** for interested professions, which could simplify the administrative requirements and reduce the deadlines for obtaining the recognition of qualifications.
- improving **access to information** and offering citizens the possibility to complete **recognition procedures online** through the Points of Single Contact.
- introducing the possibility of **partial access** to a profession, where the activities covered by a regulated profession differ from a country to another.

¹ doctors, dentists, nurses, midwives, pharmacists, veterinarians and architects

- ensuring that the **minimum training requirements** for doctors, nurses, midwives, dentists, pharmacists, veterinary surgeons and architects reflect the evolution of these professions and of education in these fields.
- ensuring a better **compliance to the minimum training requirements** for the professions benefiting from automatic recognition.
- facilitating the conditions of **temporary mobility** in case of professional accompanying consumers in another Member State.
- ensuring **transparency on the scope and justification of the regulated professions** existing in each Member State.

The proposal will also **offer stronger guarantees to consumers and patients** by:

- introducing an **alert mechanism** between competent authorities in case of professionals prohibited from exercising their professional activity
- clarifying the conditions in which competent authorities can check the **language skills** of the mobile professionals

WHO WILL IT HELP?

- **Professionals** interested in establishing or providing services on a temporary basis in another Member State – would benefit from smoother recognition procedures
- **Consumers and patients** – would benefit from a larger choice of service providers and stronger guarantees
- **Employers** – would be able to recruit more easily and quickly professionals qualified in other Member States

WHEN WOULD IT COME INTO EFFECT?

The Directive is expected to be agreed by the European Parliament and Council by end of 2012. Concrete effects can be expected for 2014.