



Romanian Parliament
Senate

Bucharest, 21 September 2016

OPINION

of the SENATE

regarding the *Proposal for a DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of highly skilled employment*

COM (2016) 378 final

The Senate examined Proposal for a DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of highly skilled employment - *COM (2016) 378 final* - according to the provisions of the Treaty of Lisbon (Protocol no. 2).

Taking into account the report of September 19, 2016 of the permanent Committee for European Affairs, **the Plenum of the Senate**, during its session of September 19, 2016, decided as follows:

- I. The proposal complies with the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality**
II. The following are noted:

1. The proposal seeks to improve the EU's ability to respond effectively and promptly to current and future demands for highly qualified third-country nationals and the shortfall of skills, in order to enhance the contribution of economic immigration to the competitiveness of the EU economy and to fight the effects of demographic aging.
2. Simplifying procedures for applicants jobs by replacing national systems with a single system at EU level;
3. Reducing the salary threshold and 80% of the national average wage;
4. Introducing conditions adaptable to national labor markets;
5. The introduction of more flexible conditions for third country nationals who have recently obtained a university degree, or have qualifications in areas experiencing a shortage of labor;
6. The recognition abilities certified by at least three years of professional experience of a level comparable with qualifications obtained in higher education and relevant occupation or performed profession;

7. Strengthening the rights of the holders of blue cards, allowing faster access to long-term resident status and immediate access and more flexible labor market, both for third-country nationals and their families;
8. Increasing mobility within the EU by facilitating procedures and by allowing professional travel up to 80 days in the Member States where the blue card is applied.

III. The following are recommended:

1. The need for a thorough examination in the light of the consequences of the proposed measures on national labor market and possible effects on labor market access for European citizens.
2. The proposal of amending the Blue Card system to accurately reflect European Community preference in the context of measures to facilitate third-party workers in the EU.

President of the Senate

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tariceanu', written over a faint, stylized outline of a signature.

Călin POPESCU-TĂRICEANU