

Preface to the Experience Reports of Architects' Competent Authorities, Oct 2010

The European Network of Architects' Competent Authorities (ENACA¹) serves as a multilateral exchange of information, and to build trust and mutual understanding, between competent authorities (CAs). Since it was formed in 2008, in consultation with the Regulated Professions Unit of the Commission, the ENACA has met three times a year. It held extra meetings in 2010 in conjunction with the Commission, to assist in its factfinding on the Professional Qualifications Directive (PQD).

As a network, the ENACA generally adopts no policy positions, recognising instead both the key role of Governments in policy, and the accountability of CAs under varied national laws and administrative practices. However, some ENACA members are also member organisations of the Architects' Council of Europe (ACE) which represents professional bodies of architects. The ACE did adopt a policy position on the PQD evaluation at its June 2010 General Assembly.

During the evaluation process up to October 2010, the number of CAs which have participated in the ENACA has grown, so that few Member States' CAs have had not yet participated in, or at least had contact with, the Network. Member States vary in how they constitute and operate CAs. For example, some States do not regulate access to the profession of architect, but may regulate pursuit of the profession by other means. While most CAs are professional chambers or orders of architects (or national federations of these), two other CAs are constituted solely as national registration boards, and the remainder are almost all national ministries.

ENACA dialogue with the Commission about PQD evaluation began when the ENACA sent to the IMCO and to the Commission a submission raising queries about the 2009 Report to IMCO by Ramboll Consulting². The ENACA worked hard with the CAs to assist the Commission's factfinding in 2010, and held meetings with the Commission in Berlin (on 26 February) and twice in Brussels (on 26 April and 5 July).

The Commission invited the ENACA to collate its members' Experience Reports for submission on 17 September 2010. The ENACA declined to do this due to:

- A wish to avoid any risk, even as editor, of misrepresenting a country's report;
- Absence from the ENACA of a minority of CAs, mostly national ministries; and
- Shortage of ENACA resources to commit to that task of collating.

¹ The ENACA postal address is c/o the Irish competent authority (the RIAI, 8 Merrion Square, Dublin 2), and it is organised by the competent authority of the German State of Hessen (AKH, haack@akh.de) on behalf of the German competent authorities (BAK, the Federal Chamber of Architects).

² See the *Study on Transposition of the Directive on the recognition of professional qualifications*, (Ramboll) for the European Parliament's Committee on Internal Market, September 2009 (IP/A/IMCO/ST/2009-05; PE 416.238), referred to in a footnote on page 7 of the same Commission Staff Working Document.

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The Commission Press Release on the Experience Reports, dated 22 October 2010, contains a link which leads to the page headed *Evaluation of the Directive*, where (after the summary for individual health professions) there are pdf 'buttons' with which to open the files of national experience reports for each of the seven 'sectoral' (i.e. automatic recognition) professions in Title III Chapter III of the Directive.

Architect is the last 'button' and set of these national experience reports. After the title page is the blank questionnaire issued in mid-2010 by the Commission to architects' competent authorities, followed by 20 national reports (only one, the German report, is in two languages):

Bulgaria	pp 7 – 13	Czech Republic	pp 15 – 19
Germany*	pp 21 – 25	Germany	pp 27 – 31
Estonia	pp 33 – 37	Ireland	pp 39 – 46
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United Kingdom	pp 161 – 174		

**Reports are in English except those asterisked which are in a home language*