



ЕВРОПЕЙСКИ ПАРЛАМЕНТ PARLAMENTO EUROPEO EVROPSKÝ PARLAMENT EUROPA-PARLAMENTET
EUROPÄISCHES PARLAMENT EUROOPA PARLAMENT ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΟ ΚΟΙΝΟΒΟΥΛΙΟ EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
PARLEMENT EUROPEÛN PARLAIMINT NA HEORPA PARLAMENTO EUROPEO EIROPAS PARLAMENTAS
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INTERPARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE MEETING European Parliament - National Parliaments

INTERNAL MARKET AND CONSUMER PROTECTION COMMITTEE

DRAFT PROGRAMME
(v. 10 September 2010)

THE INTERNAL MARKET FOR PROFESSIONALS: HOW TO MAKE IT WORK?

Improving the Recognition of Professional Qualifications

26 October 2010

*Room PHS 3C50
European Parliament, Brussels*

Opening Session:

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| 15.00–15.05 | Opening remarks by the Chair, Mr Malcolm Harbour |
| 15.05–15.10 | Introduction by the Vice Chair, Mrs. Bernadette Vergnaud,
IMCO Reflexion group on the recognition of professional qualifications |

Session I: Recognition of professional qualifications

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| 15.10–15.20 | Presentation by Ramboll consultancy on results IMCO briefing paper
(to be published early October 2010) |
| 15.20–15.30 | Expert presentation by Dr. Willi Fuchs, chief executive of the Verein
Deutscher Ingenieure (<i>tbc</i>) |
| 15.40–16.30 | Debate between Members of the European Parliament and Members of
national Parliaments. |

Session II: Recommendations for the upcoming review of Directive 2005/36/EC

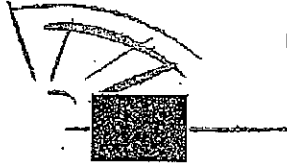
- 16.30–16.40 Expert presentation by Mr Patrick Fortuit, Ordre national des Pharmaciens de France*
- 16.40–16.50 Expert presentation by Prof. Tony Hazell, Chair of the Nursing and Midwifery Council, UK*
- 16.50–17.45 Debate between Members of the European Parliament and Members of national Parliaments.

Session III : European Commission and closing remarks:

- 17.45 - 18.15 Intervention by the European Commissioner for Internal Market and Services, Mr Michel Barnier, on the review of Directive 2005/36/EC
- 18.15 - 18.30 Closing Remarks by the Chair, Mr Malcolm Harbour

Press point

*) Tasked by the Commission to coordinate the work on the collection of evidence from the EU's competent authorities for the review of the Professional Qualifications Directive.



Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection
The Chairman

IMCO-10-0162

To the Chair of the Committee concerned

Dear Colleague,

Invitation for an Interparliamentary Committee meeting on "The Internal Market for professionals: how to make it work?"

The European Parliament's Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection, of which I have the honour to be Chairman, proposes to organise an interparliamentary meeting with the national Parliaments on the above mentioned subject on Tuesday 26 October 2010 from 15:00 to 18:30 at the European Parliament in Brussels.

I am pleased to invite up to four members of the relevant committee(s) of each national Parliament (2 for each Chamber of bicameral Parliaments) to attend the meeting. Every two members may be accompanied by a national Parliament official.

The free movement of skilled professionals is essential to the competitiveness of the European Union. The aim of this meeting is to take stock of the experiences of national Parliaments in assessing progress in the recognition of professional qualifications within the EU Member States, and to identify areas for better regulation. This pre-legislative political dialogue will contribute at an early stage to the upcoming review of the Professional Qualifications Directive (2005/36/EC) by the European Commission in 2011.

A citizen with a profession qualified and recognised in one Member State should be able to move and practise in another Member State with relative ease. In his important report on "*A new strategy for the Single Market*"¹, Professor Mario Monti urges greater ambition on the recognition of qualifications: "The scope for automatic recognition of qualifications should be expanded to new sectors..., targeting in particular new professions required for green and digital industries to facilitate the mobility of highly skilled workers."

However, there are still delays in procedures or too strict interpretations of national requirements. Every fifth complaint received by SOLVIT, the EU problem-solving

¹ 9 May 2010 (p.58).

network, concerns the recognition of professional qualifications. Some Member States have yet to fully implement the Directive, partly because it involves up to 800 regulated professions. However, lack of trust in each other's systems also clearly affects the recognition process. Tools for administrative cooperation, such as the

National Contact Points and the Internal Market Information system (IMI), are operational, but are not used to their full potential.

Moreover, public health, safety and consumer protection have to be ensured. Unfortunately, across the EU we have seen examples in which qualified foreign professionals were not familiar with specific national practices or in which professionals provided their services abroad after having been excluded from practising in their own country, jeopardising the safety of citizens.

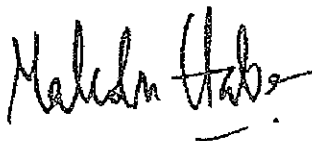
The European Parliament and the national Parliaments can together address these issues and thus contribute to the removal of obstacles that hinder professionals, employers and the general public deriving the full benefits of well-functioning labour and services markets.

In order to facilitate our discussions on 26 October, I would be most grateful if each national Parliament/Chamber could respond to the three general questions in the enclosed questionnaire. If appropriate you may also provide an answer to the optional, more detailed questions. Replies received by 1 October 2010, will be translated and distributed to both our Members and other participants at the meeting. Your written contributions would be much appreciated in advance, as they will serve to focus the debate on the real political issues in this field.

The practical details regarding the meeting will be forwarded to your Parliament's Representatives for relations with the European Parliament.

I look forward to your participation in our debates.

Yours faithfully,



Malcolm HARBOUR

Annex:

- Questionnaire
- Draft agenda



ΕΒΡΟΠΕΪΚΟ ΠΑΡΛΙΑΜΕΝΤΟ PARLAMENTO EUROPEO EVROPSKÝ PARLAMENT EUROPA-PARLAMENTET
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INTERPARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE MEETING European Parliament - National Parliaments

The Internal Market for professionals: how to make it work?

Improving the recognition of professional qualifications
26 October 2010

Questionnaire

Answers to these questions will be used as the basis for discussion at the meeting on 26 October 2010 thus ensuring that the exchange of views on the recognition of professional qualification will be both more focussed and relevant. In order to allow sufficient time for translation into EU working languages, you are kindly requested to send your reply before 1 October 2010, to tjalling.devries@europarl.europa.eu

GENERAL QUESTIONS

- A. How did your Parliament transpose the Professional Qualification Directive (2205/36/EC), for instance by means of one horizontal legislation or through several sector specific legislations?
- B. Does your Parliament/Chamber have evidence that the legislation on the recognition of professional qualifications has contributed to the objective of better functioning of labour and services markets?
- C. Are you aware of problems or cases that have arisen in the context of the implementation of the Professional Qualifications Directive

DETAILED QUESTIONS

1. Does your Parliament/Chamber consider that it has been sufficiently well informed on a regular basis regarding the changes introduced into the system of recognition of professional qualifications?
2. Have members of your Parliament/Chamber received representations on how the system for the recognition of qualifications has been implemented? Such questions could for example be from citizens concerned that their qualifications have not been recognised in another Member State.
3. What are your Parliament/Chamber views on the Directive's system for the automatic recognition of qualification for the medical profession and architects? Should this system be extended to other professions? And, if so, which ones?
4. To what extent does your Parliament/Chamber consider that the general system, based on mutual recognition of professional qualifications has actually contributed to a greater understanding and acceptance of different educational systems and training requirements in other Member States?
5. Does your Parliament/Chamber consider the provisions on mandatory information which a service provider has to give to a consumer, such as identification; registration- and VAT numbers; and insurance coverage as sufficient to ensure the health and safety of citizens?
6. Have Members of your Parliament/Chamber been alerted to problems which can arise when a professional from another Member State has had restrictions placed on his/her right to exercise their profession (e.g. malpractice convictions in the medical field)? Is there concern about the level of cross border information exchange between authorities regarding such restrictions?
7. What is the view of your Parliament/Chamber on the procedures to check the necessary language skills of professionals from other Member States once their professional qualifications have been recognised?
8. Does your Parliament/Chamber consider that a professional card, issued by professional organisations, could further facilitate recognition of qualifications and the provision of (temporary) services? What information should such cards contain and what would be the conditions for issuing the cards?
9. Does your Parliament/Chamber have a view on the Bologna process which aims to facilitate the recognition of *academic* qualifications based on learning outcomes, and on the European Qualifications Framework for *lifelong learning* (EQF)? Could these processes improve the recognition of professional qualifications and thus facilitate mobility of skilled professionals within Europe?