

European Parliament

Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO)



# The Internal Market for Professionals: How to make it work?

*The free movement of qualified EU citizens is essential to the competitiveness of the EU. The IMCO Committee considers Directive 2005/36/EC on the recognition of professional qualifications a key directive for the functioning of the Internal Market.*

Tjalling de Vries

21 February 2011

# IMCO work on the PQ Directive (1)

- Resolution on the European Professional Card (19 Feb 2009)
  - the Cederschiöld report
- IMCO hearing with experts (16 Nov 2009)
  - Professional associations, EU and national administrations
- IMCO Oral Question / plenary debate (17 Dec 2009)
  - Addressing the insufficient implementation of the Directive in the MS
- Reflection Group on Professional Qualifications (early 2010)
  - Chaired by IMCO Vice-Chairs Ms Vergnaud and Ms Comi

# IMCO work on the PQ Directive (2)

- Study transposition and implementation PQ Directive (Sept 2009)
  - Concerning the severe delays in the EU27
- Follow up study on implementation, 4 cases (Oct 2010)
  - Challenges for nurses, architects, civil engineers and tourist guides
- Joint meeting EUA on relation Bologna process (14 Oct 2010)
  - Interaction between professional and academic qualification reforms
- Committee meeting with national Parliaments (26 Oct 2010)
  - Participation of 22 MEPs and 24 MPs, incl. Norway and Switzerland
  - Commissioner Barnier announced a Green paper in autumn 2011 and a legislative act in 2012, as a part of the Single Market Act

# Next steps

- An implementation report (INI) by the IMCO Committee in 2011, to reflect on and contribute to the ongoing Commission review of the Professional Qualifications Directive
- Possible public hearing to hear the views of stakeholders on necessary modification of the current legal framework and administrative procedures
- Commission legislative proposal to enhance the recognition of professional qualifications within the EU27, expected in 2012

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# Additional info on PQ studies

## Study on transposition and implementation EU27 (Sept 2009)

- All MS transposed and implemented the Directive with severe delays
- The MS seem lacking trust in each other's educational and recognition systems
- Recommendations: frequent meetings administrations MS, common use of IMI, practical guidance by Commission and assistance from industry associations.

## Follow up study on implementation, 4 cases (Oct 2010)

### Recommendations:

- IMI system: more functionalities and mandatory use
- Improve the updating of the annexes of the Directive
- Ensuring recognition even if the profession is not regulated in the home MS
- Developing best practices on compensation measures
- Assist MS solving practical problems in particular related to temporary services
- Facilitate the development of professional cards

# Inter-parliamentary meeting on PQ

## Key points of the debate (26 Oct 2010)

- Encourage free movement, but only if public health and consumer safety are ensured
- First results review show the need to modernise the Directive
- The system of automatic recognition is considered a success
- The IMI system should become mandatory and include an alert mechanism
- Temporary mobility: only require prior declarations for professions that really have public health and safety implications
- Need to update the minimum training requirements, including mandatory provisions on continuous professional training
- Professional cards could speed up the recognition process, but challenges to their development and implementation
- Clear provisions on language requirements necessary; the provisions of the current Directive should be clarified
- Reforms of the educational systems in the MS (the Bologna Process) should be used to enhance the recognition of professional qualifications - and vice versa

# Useful links

- [IMCO website](#)
- [IMCO events](#): Inter-parliamentary meeting 26.10.10
- [IMCO newsletter](#)

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