

# Recognition of Professional Qualifications

## Problems faced by citizens on the move

*A perspective from 'Your Europe Advice'*

Antoine Fobe

European Commission's DG MARKT hearing

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# Your Europe Advice

- Who it is for
- What it offers
- How it connects with other services
- How it feeds into EU policy-making
- My role in YEA: expert for France and feedback coordinator

<http://europa.eu/youreurope>

**00 800 67 89 10 11** (Europe Direct)

# Two-fold presentation

- A. The YEA experience of problems encountered by citizens in RPQ: a report in 2010
  
- B. Contribution to the debate on simplification

# A- Main findings in YEA report

- RPQ, an important problem area
- Widespread confusions
- Expectation gap
- Information and guidance badly needed
- Non-compliance of Member States

# An important problem area

- Over 10,000 enquiries
- 6.4% of cases concerned RPQ
- RPQ, 8.3% of the interesting cases
- RPQ, 11.2% of cases transferred to SOLVIT
- RPQ, 15.1% of enquiries from SOLVIT

RPQ problems, very time-consuming

# Widespread confusions

- Professional / academic recognition
- Qualified / qualifying professionals
- Professional / employer recognition
- RPQ rights and residence rights
- RPQ and access to employment

# Expectation gap

- EU citizenship (or related family rights) and third country qualifications
- Third country nationals and European qualifications
- Temporary provision of services / establishment
- « Automatic » recognition / general system

# Information and guidance badly needed

- Preventative role of information
- Unawareness of National Contact Points
- Lack of guidance to identify competent authority in home country
- ...for translations and certificates of language proficiency
- ...for registration with a professional association and use of titles

# Member States not complying with the rules

- More about establishment than about temporary provision of services (nuance)
- More in the general system than in automatic recognition
- More for sectoral professions than for trade, industry and business professions
- Horizontal problems at all stages:

# 1. The application for RPQ

- Unnecessary documents and translations
- Failure to acknowledge receipt of (complete) application
- Red tape in handling application file
- Cost of the procedure
- Excessive delay

## 2. The decision on RPQ

- Unnecessary control of training and of its content
- Unfair comparison of training
- Professional experience not duly taken into account
- Denied partial recognition
- Lack of motivation for denied recognition
- Failure to indicate avenues of appeal

# The decision on RPQ (contd.)

- Failure to assimilate some third country nationals
- And some third country qualifications

# 3. The compensation measures

- Unnecessary compensation measures
- No choice of compensation measure
- No guidance for compensation measures
- Compensation measures not available within reasonable delay

## 4. The exercise of the profession

- Denied registration with the local professional association
- Abusive linguistic requirements
- Unequal treatment in access to employment and working conditions

# B- Scope for simplification

Recommendations contained in the YEA report\* + personal views on other questions contained in section 2 of the Commission's consultation document of 7 January 2011:

- Access to and exchange of information
- Consolidation of existing rules
- Further developments

# Access to and exchange of information

## For mobile professionals:

- User's Guide
- Database of regulated professions\*
- National Contact Points\*
- Single Points of Contact

## For authorities in the Member States:

- Code of Conduct
- IMI System

# Consolidation of existing rules

- Application of the Directive to third country nationals\*
- Partial access
- Procedural rights
- Code of Conduct

# Further developments

For qualified professionals in regulated professions:

- Are 3 systems necessary?\*

For others concerned by recognition of diplomas:

- Regulated education

Thank you  
for your attention