



Brussels, 31 May 2011

STEERING GROUP ON THE EUROPEAN PROFESSIONAL CARD

FOURTH MEETING – 23 MAY 2011

Meeting Report

The fourth meeting of the Steering Group on the European Professional Card took place in Brussels on 23 May 2011. The meeting was chaired by J. Tiedje, Head of Unit 'Free movement of professionals,' DG Internal Market and Services.

Introduction

The Chairman briefed participants on recent developments and set out the current timetable for Commission work. He indicated that a Green Paper on the modernisation of the professional Qualifications Directive is likely to be published by the end of June and the period for receiving comments might be till September. A Single Market Forum is being organised for early October and this would be a good opportunity to present the results of the work of the Steering Group in the context of a workshop. The Chairman noted further that the case studies to be developed by the sub-groups should also help the Commission in assessing the impact of a professional card towards a possible legislative proposal.

Presentation of feedback received on the Non-Paper

Participants were invited to present their **feedback on the Non-Paper** on the professional card. The Commission noted the already received contributions from: UK General Medical Council (GMC), European Federation of Nurses' Associations (EFN), European Federation of National Engineering Associations (FEANI), European Tour Operators' Association (ETOA), Ministry of Justice of Italy.

Participants commented on the challenge of exploring the situation of mobility from non-regulated to regulated Member States and the possibility for ensuring the added value of the card under the general system. Furthermore, participants indicated the issue of implementing a single card for temporary mobility and establishment. The potential use of national databases was also noted.

Presentation of a common platform for the mountain guides' profession

Alexis Mallon of UIAGM (International Federation of Mountain Guides' Associations) presented the work carried out by this organisation to create a **platform on the training standards for mountain guides** and to deliver a **professional card**. Currently 10 EU Member States regulate this profession. The UIAGM platform reflects uniform training requirements for mountain guides, a code of professional conduct and a strong relationship with authorities. Mountain guide diplomas issued by member

organisations are treated as equivalent. In cases where diplomas are issued by non-member organisations, a comparison based on the common platform is made.

Discussion of a common framework for a Case Study and identification of sub-groups

Sub-groups were formed focusing on the following professions: **doctors, engineers, nurses, physiotherapists, tourist guides**. Interested participants indicated further reflection on the formation of sub-groups on the professions of: **pharmacists and the property professions**.

It was indicated that the preliminary result expected was a **list of questions** developed by each sub-group that takes into consideration the regimes existing under the current Directive, but also with a view to its modernisation. The sub-groups were invited to refer back to the scenarios presented in the Non-Paper of the last meeting and to focus on those that they consider as workable solutions for their respective professions. The lists of questions would outline issues related to the legal effects, contents and implementation challenges for the professional card that the sub-groups intend to address in their case studies. The Commission noted that, at this stage, the discussions should not focus on common platforms and related training contents which constitute a subject on its own and require further consideration by the Commission in the context of the Green Paper.

It was indicated that the sub-groups should select a limited number of Member States (perhaps 3-4) with an adequate geographical spread and population size in the context of which to explore the possible functioning of the card to be reflected in the case study. Discussions on technical work (such as developing a smart card or an electronic database) were not expected.

Break-out sessions for the sub-groups

The sub-groups were invited to engage in a on the particular issues that they consider the professional card should address in the context of their particular profession. As a result of these discussions the sub-groups drew up first lists of tentative questions that would serve as basis for producing their case studies.

Presentation by the sub-groups of their work plans and respective lists of questions

The selected rapporteurs from each of the sub-groups presented the lists of questions produced by each sub-group during the break-out sessions relating to the issues that the respective sub-group intends to address in a case study.

Next steps

The sub-groups were invited to send in writing their **completed lists of questions** to the Commission by May 25. The Chairman indicated that his team would support the work on finalising the lists of questions by identifying logical categories around which the questions could be clustered. An **updated version of the Non-Paper** will also be prepared.

The sub-groups would ideally produce **initial drafts** of short length (3-5 pages) to be discussed at the next Steering Group meeting of 8 July. These first drafts should outline a work plan, membership of the sub-group, first working assumptions, and a list of Member States (3-4) in the context of which a case study would be tested). **Advanced papers** (incorporating also feedback from authorities from certain MemberStates) are expected for the Steering Group meeting of 9 September and they should be as close as possible to the sub-groups' final conclusions.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Meeting Steering Group European Professional Card

23 May 2011

<u>NAME OF PARTICIPANT</u>	<u>ORGANISATION</u>
BARON, Isabelle	Ordre des Pharmaciens (France)
BOCHAR, Dirk	European Federation of National Engineering Associations (FEANI)
DE RAEVE, Paul	European Federation of Nurses' Association (EFN)
DESTREBECQ, Frédéric	European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS)
FAIRHURST, Tim	ETOA - European Tour Operators Association
FORTUIT, Patrick	Ordre des Pharmaciens (France)
GOLAS, Agnieszka	EUROCADRES / ETUC
GOMEZ, Silvia	European Federation of Nurses' Association (EFN)
GORRIA, David	GR-WCPT
JOBI, Joachim	European Council of Engineers Chambers (ECEC) / European Network of Architectural Competent Authorities (ENACA)
LORENCO, Jair	Department of Tourism (Italy)
LYPHOUT, Romain	European Council of Liberal Professions (CEPLIS) FEPI
MALLON, Alexis	International Federation of Mountain Guides Association (UIAGM)
MC NAMEE, Peter	Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE)
MILCEVIC, Tatjana	Danish Agency for International Education
ORTEGA GUTIERREZ, Carlos	European Federation of Tourist Guide Associations
ORTEGAT, Xavier	European Council of Real Estate Professions (CEPI)
PEREZ, Hans-Sebastian	Ministère de la Santé (France)
PIERRET, France	European Travel Agents' and Tour Operators' Associations (ECTAA)
PROSCIA, Francesco	Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE)

RAPTIS, Georgios	Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME)
RASKOVA, Zuzanna	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports
ROMAN, Agnes	European Trade Union Committee for Education (ETUCE)
RONZITTI, Emanuela	Ministry of Justice (Italy)
SCHUBERT, Tanja Nicole	Healthcare Professionals Crossing Borders
SEALE, Marc	Health Professions Council
SHERIDAN, Kevin	Association of European Building Surveyors and Construction Experts (AEEBC)
STORK, Stefan	Zentralverband des Deutschen Handwerks e.V. (ZDH)
SVARCAITE, Jurate	Pharmaceutical Group of the European Union (PGEU)
TOTH, Zsolt	Association of European Building Surveyors and Construction Experts (AEEBC)
UZELAC, Slavica	EUROCADRES / ETUC