



FEB
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BUSINESSEUROPE's response to the Green paper on modernising the professional qualifications directive

**Debate „Future of Professional Qualifications in
Europe“ - 12th October 2011**

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Business perspective

- Shortages experienced differ from one country to another
- Increased intra-EU mobility would contribute to reducing mismatches and filling vacancies

Worker's perspective

- Gains freedom of movement
 - Provides greater pool of jobs to choose from
 - Knowledge exchange
 - Better career opportunities

Simplification of 2005 directive

- Needed:
 - Better awareness of possibilities of directive
 - More and updated information on interpretation
 - Simplification and modernising the acquis
- *BUT is additional legislation only way to achieve real simplification?*

BusinessEurope's Comments

1. Reducing the number of regulated professions
2. Modernising automatic recognition
3. The Professional Qualifications Directive and the development of transparency tools
4. Introducing a Professional Card
5. Language skills

1. Reducing the number of regulated professions

- Over 25% of 800 categories of professions, only regulated in one single Member State
- Investigate whether regulated professions could be reduced in order to foster mobility
 - Criterium : is regulation beneficial to consumers?
- National competence, but
 - Clearer and more objective conditions for access

2. Modernising automatic recognition

- Green paper : upgrade minimum requirements for automatic recognition 7 professions: doctors, midwives, nurses, architects, dentists, pharmacists and veterinary surgeons
- BE: Assess more outcome in terms of skills and competences acquired, than number of hours on school bench
- BE : welcoming European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) to facilitate automatic recognition

3. The Professional Qualifications Directive and other transparency tools

- Exploring potential of various transparency tools within Bologna & Copenhagen processes, not to be limited to 7 professions covered by automatic recognition
- Clarify co-existence of PQD and EQF (PQD: 5 levels + EQF-framework: 8 levels)

Complementary tools

- ECVET + EQAVET + EQARF
- Common approach to quality assurance needed, to smoother recognition of qualifications across EU27.
 - But: many regulated professions fall outside the scope of transparency tools
- Inspiration : Copenhagen & Bologna processes to increase transparency and trust between national education systems

4. Introducing a Professional Card

- Administrative burden for recognition hinders attractiveness of moving
- To be kept to minimum
- Greater transparency and trust needed between Member States, lesser duplication of procedures, lesser verifications in “receiving” country

4. Introducing a Professional Card

- Status must be easily proven throughout Europe
- BUT : is professional card best approach?
- Root of the problem: improving trust between receiving and sending countries
- Solution : common approach to quality assurance?

5. Language skills: justified and proportionate

- Language skills not to be strengthened
- Systematic language testing: vigilance required, because risk of keeping non-national professionals outside labour market through time-consuming and complicated procedures