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SECOND MEETING WITH PROFESSIONAL ORGANISATIONS
ON THE EVALUATION OF THE PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS DIRECTIVE

Annotated agenda
Meeting of 29 October 2010

09:00 – 09:30 **Registration**

09:30 – 10:00 **Introduction by the Commission: state of play of the evaluation**

Welcome of the participants

Overview of the completion of the first phase of the evaluation and possible next steps towards a final evaluation report and a possible Green Paper in autumn 2011.

10:00 – 11:15 **Session 1 - Temporary mobility: potential yet to be unlocked**

Directive 2005/36/EC allows for such mobility without prior check of the qualifications for most of the professions. However, Member States may ask for prior declarations, for professionals willing to provide services in other Member States on a temporary or occasional basis. Despite the efforts at simplification, the interest in using this new regime seems to be limited.

Possible discussion points:

What is the degree of interest of professionals in providing services on a temporary or occasional basis in other Member States? Does the new regime meet the economic needs of the professions?

What are the difficulties and uncertainties encountered by professionals and consumers?

- Presentation by the Commission of current findings after the first phase of the evaluation
- Comments by professional organisations on these findings
- Invitation to professional organisations to present specific examples and case studies

11:15 – 11:30 **Coffee break**

11:30 - 12:15

Session 2a - Automatic recognition on the basis of minimum training requirements: a success story, but...

The system of automatic recognition, based on the harmonisation of minimum training requirements for sectoral professions is overall well received by competent authorities. However, it is based on requirements established a long time ago.

Possible discussion points:

Do professionals consider the recognition of qualifications under this system really "automatic"? Is the basis for automatic recognition still relevant?

- Presentation by the Commission of current findings after the first phase of the evaluation
- Comments by professional organisations on these findings

12:15 – 12:45

Session 2b – Automatic recognition based on professional experience: a need for modernisation after 40 years?

Professionals of craft, industry and commerce benefit from the automatic recognition of the qualifications on the basis of their professional experience. This mechanism seems to work quite smoothly, however some competent authorities have expressed concerns about the nature of activities falling under this recognition system (i.e. activities listed in Annex IV of the Directive).

Possible discussion points:

What is the experience of professionals in the implementation of this recognition system?

- Presentation by the Commission of current findings after the first phase of the evaluation
- Comments by professional organisations on these findings

12:45 – 13:45

Lunch break

Sandwich buffet offered by Commission

13:45 – 14:30

Session 3a - The "general system": the complex landscape of "compensation measures" (tests, stages)

Directive 2005/36/EC consolidated the previous "mutual recognition" Directives (Directives 89/48/EC and 92/51/EC), based on the comparison of qualifications and the possibility to impose "compensatory measures" on migrants in case of substantial differences in the training. However, the implementation of this system is still considered complex by most of the Member States.

Possible discussion points:

How could the comparison and recognition of professional qualifications be further simplified?

Are the five educational levels set out in Article 11 helpful and still relevant in the light of educational reforms, such as the European Qualifications Framework? What would happen if the general system does no longer make any reference to national educational levels?

- Presentation by the Commission of current findings after the first phase of the evaluation
- Short overview about planned external study on the interaction between the Directive and recent educational reforms: presentation by the Commission
- Comments by professional organisations
- Invitation to present specific examples and case studies related

14:30 – 15:00

Session 3b - Common platforms: a failure under the current Directive

Possible discussion points:

Should the concept of common platforms be revisited and tailored to professions where cross border mobility is a prevailing feature? If so, which cases offer potential for facilitating free movement of professionals? What could be the contents of a common platform to support the Directive?

- Presentation by the Commission
- Invitation to professional organisations to which extent pilot projects could be launched

15:00 – 15:15

Coffee break

15:15 – 16:00

Session 4 – Does a professional card offer potential?

The Directive currently offers practical means to render assistance to citizens. A professional card might be a further means.

Possible discussion points:

Would a professional card make it easier for a professional to provide temporary services or to establish abroad on a permanent basis? What potential could it offer for professional services within the framework of the Directive? Should it be issued by a competent authority in the home Member State or by a European association?

- Presentation by the Commission of current findings after the first phase of the evaluation
- Comments by professional organisations
- Invitation to present ongoing projects and case studies
- Discussion on possible pilot projects within a focus group composed of a limited number of professions

16:15 – 16:30

Conclusions by the Chairman