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Yesterday, 12 June, an informal agreement was reached between the **EU Irish Presidency and the European Parliament on the legislation to recognise professional qualifications throughout the EU (review of DIR 2005/36/EC)**. The provisionally-agreed text will now be presented for final endorsement by Member States, to the Council Committee of Permanent Representatives (COREPER)/ and Parliament's Internal Market Committee. The compromise legal text will still require formal adoption by both the Council of the EU and the European Parliament.

Quick reminder of the content of the text, review of DIR 2005/36/EC:

Concretely, the European Commission argues that the proposal will facilitate the mobility of professionals by:

- introducing a European professional card for interested professions, which could simplify the administrative requirements and reduce the deadlines for obtaining the recognition of qualifications.
- improving access to information and offering citizens the possibility to complete recognition procedures online through the Points of Single Contact.
- introducing the possibility of partial access to a profession, where the activities covered by a regulated profession differ from a country to another.
- ensuring that the minimum training requirements for doctors, nurses, midwives, dentists, pharmacists, veterinary surgeons and architects reflect the evolution of these professions and of education in these fields.
- ensuring a better compliance to the minimum training requirements for the professions benefiting from automatic recognition.
- facilitating the conditions of temporary mobility in case of professional accompanying consumers in another Member State.
- ensuring transparency on the scope and justification of the regulated professions existing in each Member State.

The proposal also aims at providing stronger guarantees to consumers and patients by introducing an alert mechanism between competent authorities in case of professionals prohibited from exercising their professional activity clarifying the conditions in which competent authorities can check the language skills of the mobile professionals.

The European Parliament IMCO (internal market) committee will probably vote on the deal before the summer break, paving the way for a **plenary vote in October**. More legislative/timeline [details](#).



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Mutual recognition of professional qualifications: MEPs strike deal with Council

Free movement of persons / Free movement of services – 13-06-2013 - 11:15 

Doctors, nurses, architects and other professionals moving to another EU country will find it easier to get their qualifications recognised there thanks to a provisional deal struck by MEPs and the EU's Irish Presidency of the Council on Wednesday evening. It will bring in an electronic card listing professional skills and oblige professionals' home countries to do more to help them to obtain recognition abroad.

"We have delivered a text with many concrete improvements for citizens and especially the introduction of a European professional card, which I have advocated since 2007 and will

soon become a reality. Tools for facilitating mobility, are also instruments of European citizenship, proving that Europe can work to improve everyday life", said rapporteur Bernadette Vergnaud (S&D, FR) after the deal was struck.

Easier recognition

The deal, on a draft directive, would require member states and the Commission to take account of the wishes of professional bodies which opt for EU professional qualifications card for their members. If they do so, member states would grant the cards, which professionals could use then as a "passport" for mutual recognition purposes.

The deal also should accelerate the recognition process, which in some cases could take no more than four weeks, and would be based on the existing electronic information exchange system between member states' administrations.

It would also enable professionals to ask their home countries to arrange the recognition, rather than having to apply to the host country as at present. If the authorities were to fail to respond to a recognition request within the time limits set out in the directive, this would be deemed a tacit recognition of the qualification.

Traineeships

MEPs ensured that the directive will also cover traineeships, as an integral part of a professional's experience. Not only paid traineeships, as proposed by the Commission, but also the unpaid ones, will form part of the training giving access to a regulated profession.

Alert system

The directive also aims to prevent health professionals, such as doctors, nurses or veterinary surgeons, who have been convicted of a crime or face disciplinary action from transferring their practice to another EU member state. All EU member states should be informed of such convictions or decisions to discipline a professional within three days, says the text.

Next step

The provisionally-agreed text still needs to be formally approved by the Council Committee of Permanent Representatives and Parliament's Internal Market Committee. The committee will probably vote on the deal before the summer break, paving the way for a plenary vote in October.

Background

Improving mobility for professionals is one of the 12 priorities of the Single Market Act, the Commission's action plan to improve the functioning of the single market. The existing Professional Qualifications Directive, which has applied since 2007, secures the automatic recognition of seven professions across Europe: doctors, dentists, pharmacists, nurses, midwives, veterinary surgeons and architects.