

EUROCADRES-CEPLIS JOINT OPINION ON THE RECOGNITION OF PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS DIRECTIVE

The Council of European Professional and Managerial Staff (**EUROCADRES**) and the European Council of Liberal Professions (**CEPLIS**) would like to reaffirm their strong belief in the need for a modernization of the current Directive related to recognition of professional qualifications.

Both **CEPLIS** and **EUROCADRES** feel that there is a clear need for a European system of recognition of professional qualifications if the objectives of the EU2020 Strategy are to be obtained.

In fact, the enhancement of professional mobility constitutes one of the most efficient remedies for the present economic crisis, which demonstrates, in our view, the need for more European integration. Professionals and professions should act as pioneers if the current obstacles towards this goal are to be finally removed.

Our organizations salute the good work carried out by the European Commission up to now, notably through the public consultation and the Green paper drafted by the DG Internal Market.

Today we are writing to you in order to underline that:

We are pleased to see that the Commission proposes a facilitation of the setting up of common platforms at the European level. Indeed, we feel that the success of the whole process of modernization of the current Directive would be measured on the level of effective improvement of those tools already provided by it, which, however, have not fully functioned up to now.

As regards professional cards, further to the answers we have both submitted in March and September, we would like to stress our belief that they could become -if the right framework is provided in the future Directive- an efficient tool of facilitation of

the recognition and mobility of the partially regulated professions. It's important of course that the data of such cards are provided by Public Competent Authorities.

There is a clear need to raise the level of qualifications at the same time with the facilitation of mobility. The objectives of the EU2020 Strategy necessitate in fact, quality as much as quantity. In this context, we believe it is necessary to include in the directive the Continuous Professional Development as a condition for the access to practice some professions and the periodic accreditation of skills. We do understand that every EU member-State will continue to apply its own legislative provisions on Continuous Professional Development. We believe, nevertheless, that the insertion of such a symbolic obligation in the Directive will do much for the enhancement of trust amid citizens and professionals and the strengthening of the European quality level.

To conclude, we are fully persuaded, Dear Commissioners, that the key to the success of the new modernized European legal framework for the recognition of professional qualifications is clearly placed on a reinforced collaboration between competent authorities, professional associations and social partners.

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For the Council of European Professional and Managerial Staff
Carlo Parietti,
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For the European Council of Liberal Professions,
Jacques Reignault,
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