InfoKit

European Council of Liberal Professions

Conseil Européen des Professions Libérales

Europaïscher Rat der Frien Berufe

Consejo Europeo De Profesiones Liberales

Consiglio Europeo delle Professioni Liberali

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About us

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Description

CEPLIS (European Council of the Liberal Professions) is an umbrella organisation bringing together national inter-professional associations (such as for example UNAPL in France, Confprofessioni in Italy, the UP in Spain, etc.) and European mono-professional ones (such as for example EFPA for Psychologists, ENC for Nurses, ECEC and FEANI for Engineers, etc).

As described in the statutes the objectives of CEPLIS are the coordination and defense of the moral, cultural, scientific and material interests of the Liberal Professions, the implementation of any kind of information or action which may help to achieve its objectives, the creation and participation in all necessary organisations or services, and in general the implementation of all measures required to contribute to accomplishing the objective of the association.

Since its establishment in the 1970's, CEPLIS is the unique organisation that represents the interests of the Liberal Professionals at the European level. In practice, CEPLIS is at the same time an observatory, a forum, a lobbying and an embassy of the important socio-economic family of the liberal and regulated professions.

Legal Statut

CEPLIS is registered as a non-governmental, non-profit making international organization under Belgian law.

Structure

- The General Assembly of CEPLIS is composed exclusively from Active Members. Associated and observer members may attend but have no voting rights. Correspondent organisations may also be invited to attend. Within the General Assembly, each « European Professional Organisation » and each « Interprofessional Organisation » has one vote and may be represented by no more than two representatives. The General Assembly meets at least twice each year. It splits into two colleges, corresponding to the two types of active members.
- The Executive Board of CEPLIS is composed by the President and 9 persons elected by the General Assembly. The members of the Board are elected for a three years term. The Board is given "the widest powers to carry out all acts of administration or stipulations which affect the association". Its competencies are those that are not explicitly assigned to the General Assembly.
- Finally, the Permanent Committee is created to be the working Body of CEPLIS. Its members are “the members of the Board complemented by the chairmen of the working groups”. Representatives of all member observer and correspondent organisations may attend the meetings of the Permanent Committee on subjects of interest to them.

Executive Board Members

GAETANO STELLA
PRESIDENT

VICTORIA ORTEGA
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

JEAN-YVES PIRLOT
VICE-PRESIDENT

JEAN-PHILIPPE BROCHET
VICE-PRESIDENT IN TANDEM WITH MRS. ZERAH

EUPLMG

SIMONE ZERAH
VICE-PRESIDENT IN TANDEM WITH MR. BROCHET

EUPLMG

BENJAMIN RIZZO
VICE-PRESIDENT

mfpa

MARIO GAZIC
TREASURER

European NURSING Council

ROY SPITZ
MEMBER

unapl

JAMES LONERGAN

MEMBER

IIPA

MICHAËL VAN GOMPEN

MEMBER IN TANDEM WITH MR. JACQUEMIN

unplib

Union des professions libérales et intellectuelles

BERNARD JACQUEMIN

MEMBER IN TANDEM WITH MR. VAN GOMPEN

unplib

Union des professions libérales et intellectuelles

KLAUS THÜRRIEDL

MEMBER

European Council of Engineers Chambers

Secretariat General

4 permanent employees under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Theodoros Koutroubas, Director General and Senior Policy Advisor of CEPLIS

Our missions

- Information
- Advocacy
- Networking

Information

Its Brussels Secretariat Office monitors all EU information relating to the interest for our professions and then forwards it to the member organisations, along with a first analysis, via a weekly newsletter, the “CEPLIS Telegram”.

Information relating to a particular profession or group of professions is also directly forwarded to the competent association-member after a first analysis. Members then come back to the Secretariat with feedback on the issue of particular interest to them and possible common actions are debated. It is important however to note that, in accordance with its statutes, “CEPLIS can only take a position on a specific problem concerning a given liberal profession on the express request of the member representing this profession within CEPLIS and exclusively within the limits defined by its association objectives.”

Advocacy

EU related issues of interest to a group of liberal professions are discussed in the framework of CEPLIS' working groups. Currently there are seven Working Groups operating, one for the Health Professions, one on Common Values and Professional Codes, one regarding the "Continuous Professional Development (CPD)", another on the Directives, another one for the Interprofessions, other for Monoprofessions and finally the Permanent Committee. Special working groups are also created to debate and determine CEPLIS' action on proposed EU legislation, such as the Directive on the Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications, the Directive on Services in the Internal Market, or the Commission's Communication's on Competition and Regulations in our sector.

Networking

During its long presence at the Community scene, CEPLIS has of course built a broad friendly network with the Union's institutions and bodies. Today, CEPLIS is:

- an agreed organisation of the European Economic and Social Committee,
- maintains close contacts with the European Commission's Directorate Generals for Competition, Enterprises, Internal Market and Services, Health, Research, etc.,
- has a solid friendship with a number of MEPs with a particular interest in the liberal professions,
- and is regularly consulted on issues of the European Social Dialogue relevant to our professional activities thanks to a strategic partnership with EUROCADRES, the Council of European Professional and Managerial Staff.

Several times per year CEPLIS is organising or co-organising seminars and conferences aiming at bringing together EU officials with the representatives of the professions, giving the latter the opportunity to do their own lobbying while raising the visibility of the sector. Thanks to its network and efficient action, CEPLIS can proudly claim to have had a considerable impact in the shaping of important EP documents for our professions, as well as in the debate on relevant EU legislation at the level of the European Parliament and Commission.

Four axes of work

- Strengthening the core values of the liberal Professions
- Focusing on the networking and Public affairs
- Monitoring the ongoing European legislative processes/trends with an impact on the liberal professions
- Monitoring the major challenges for the European Union

Strengthening the core values of the liberal Professions

By:

- Raising awareness on our « Common values »
- Lobbying with the Council – Continuous Professional Development
- Developing the Malta Centre of Excellence on Professional Ethics

Focusing on the networking and Public affairs

By:

- Building closer relationships with a number of MEPs interested in our sector
- Improving our relationship with the European Economic and Social Committee
- Developing relations with all other stakeholders working on fields close or similar to ours

Monitoring the ongoing European legislative processes/trends with an impact on the liberal professions

By:

- Monitoring the implementation of the amended Directive on the Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications
- Monitoring the European Commission's Work regarding the boosting of entrepreneurship in our sector and being vigilant regarding plans to reopen the discussion on professional regulation
- Monitoring the process for the Revision of the Directive on Services in the Internal Market
- Monitoring the Directive on Proportionality
- Monitoring Service Package of the Commission in general

Monitoring the major challenges for the European Union

By:

- Monitoring the current impact of the refugee crisis for our societies and our professions in particular
- Monitoring the application of the decision of the majority of the people of the United Kingdom to leave the European Union in the coming years.

How do I become a member

- Definitions of the Liberal Professions
- Types of membership

Definitions of the Liberal Professions

The Statutes of CEPLIS define the liberal professions as « The persons practising a profession are characterised by the provision of services of intellectual nature, considering their particular professional qualification, in their name and liability and in total independence within the scope of their activities, in the interest of their principals, clients and patients and of the community. The practice of their profession is subjected to the obligations of its code of ethics, in conformance with national legislation, or with the status defined in total autonomy by the organisations concerned, the purpose of said status being to warrant and develop professionalism, quality and relationship with the principal, client or patient ».These professions may be practised individually or within ventures.

Types of membership

In principle, membership is voluntary and indirect: it is open to Mono-professional Organisations and to Inter-professional Organisations of Liberal Professions.

Active Members

Actives Members of CEPLIS must “by law be non-profit making groups, constituted legally in accordance with the internal laws of one of the Member States of the European Union” and are either:

- “European Professional Organisations” or “Liaison Committees”, which are “organisations representing a single liberal profession within the European Union” and consisting “of the organisations representing the profession considered in at least 5 Member States", or

- “Interprofessional Organisations”, which are “national organisations grouping several liberal professions and having a representative character within the Member State considered” and representing “at least 5 liberal professions’ organisations and must be recognised representative at the national level”.

Observer Members

Observer members are organisations satisfying the same conditions as the Active Members, but in a country not member of the European Union.

Correspondent organisations

Correspondent Organisations are organisations active at the national level which do not comply with the criteria for any of the categories of membership of CEPLIS, but may, on application to the Executive Board, be granted the status of Correspondent Organisation, if the Board considers it appropriate to do so.

A Correspondent Organisation receives the CEPLIS Telegram, has the right to seek advice from the Secretariat on matters relating to the activities of CEPLIS and is invited to be represented at the General Assembly and Working Group meetings, as well as at all seminars held under the auspices of the Permanent Committee.

Who are our members ?

Interprofessionnels

- Union Nationale des Professions Libérales (France) - http://www.unapl.fr/
- Unión Profesional (Spain) - http://www.unionprofesional.com/
- Irish Inter-Professional Association (Ireland) - http://www.iipa.com/
- Confprofessioni (Italy) - http://www.confprofessioni.eu/
- Malta Federation of Professional Associations (Malta) - http://www.mfpa.org.mt/about
- Uniunea Profesiilor Liberale din România (Romania) - http://www.uplr.ro/
- Union Nationale des Professions Libérales et Intellectuelles de Belgique (Belgium) - http://www.ucm.be/
- Union Nationale des Professionnels de Santé (France) - http://www.unps-sante.org
- Bundeskonferenz der Frein Berufe Österrreichs (Austria) - http://www.freie-berufe.at/
- Fédération luxembourgeoises des travailleurs intellectuels indépendants (Luxembourg) - http://www.fti.lu/
- RETE Professioni Tecniche (Italy) - http://www.awn.it/

Monoprofessionnels

- Association Européenne des Médecins Experts (Expert-Physicians)
- Confederation of the European Biopathologists - http://www.cbe-ceb.eu/
- Council of European Geodetic Surveyors - http://www.clge.eu/
- European Council of Podiatrist
- European Nursing Council - http://www.enc-eu.org/
- European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine - http://www.efcclm.org/
- European Council of Engineer Chambers - http://www.ecec.net/
- European Federation of Psychologists' Associations - http://www.efpa.eu/
- Fédération Internationale des Experts en Automobile - http://www.fiea.org/
- European Association for Psychotherapy - http://www.europsyche.org/
- Orthoptistes de la Communauté Européenne - http://euro-orthoptics.com/oce/
- European Union of Pharmacists Specialist on Laboratory Medecine and Human Genetics – https://www.euplmg.eu
- Standing Liaison Committee of EU Speech and Language Therapists and Logopedists - http://www.cplol.eu/

Who are our members ?

Membres Observateur

- European Osteopaths - http://europeanosteopaths.eu/fr/
- European Federation of Tourist Guide Associations - http://www.feg-touristguides.com/
- European Federation of National Engineering Associations - https://www.feani.org

Organisations Correspondantes

- Association Professionnelle de Conservateurs-Restaurateurs d'Oeuvres d'Art - http://www.aproa-brk.org/
- UK Professional Standards Authority - www.professionalstandards.org.uk
- Consiglio Nazionale dei Periti Industriali - http://www.cnpi.it/
- European Association of Practice-oriented Professionals with Higher Education - http://www.eureta.org/
- Consiglio Nazionale Ingegneri (Italy)
- Ordre des Géomètres-Experts - http://www2.geometre-expert.fr/
- Die Bundeskammer der Architekten und Ingenieurkonsulenten - http://www.arching.at/baik/
- Croatian Dental Chamber
- Syndicat des laboratoires de biologie clinique - http://slbc.fr
- Caisse interprofessionnelle de prévoyance et d'assurance vieillesse des professions libérales - https://www.lacipav.fr/

How to contact us?

http://www.ceplis.org/

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