

Agenda Item 10

Enclosure 6

Paper RC 17 / 02

REGISTRATION COMMITTEE

REPORT ON MEETING OF CEPLIS

From : the Executive

FOR INFORMATION

REPORT ON MEETING OF CEPLIS (European Council of the Liberal Professions) IN BRUSSELS ON 26 JUNE 2002

The meeting was convened to discuss the directive proposal of the European Parliament and the Council on the recognition of professional qualifications (COM (2002) 119 final). The following is a summary of the main points raised.

1. No position has been taken in the new proposals on the character and nature of the professions, only on the status of the professions.
2. The proposals are not intended to prevail over national restrictions on scope of practice.
3. It is hoped that professional associations and competent authorities will work together and take the pressure off individual migrants.
4. Professional platforms should not be used as a way of establishing minimum requirements across member states. They should look at different elements in different combinations and give different levels of competence. Common platforms are seen as being flexible and adaptable, not a permanent structure and not with a fixed minimum requirement. Ideas are needed and no view has been taken on the composition of professional platforms. They will not appear in any Directive and there will not be any move to implement them. The professions should design them and then have a dialogue with the Internal Market Directorate about the approach they have decided on. Recognition without compensation measures is the aim of common platforms. Applicants whose profile does not fit with that required by the common platform may need to go through the usual assessment procedures. The Commission is aware that levels of competence differ across member states. Common platforms can be held by a limited number of member states.
5. The 16 week proposal assumes that information will be exchanged between member states although the Commission is aware that member states do not necessarily collect the same information in the first place. These proposals will increase the obligation on the regulators to provide and capture information if they do not already do so. This proposal is intended to give consumers more choice although protection of the public would continue to be the same as that in the professional's home member state (if this exists). Suggestions for how this might work in practice would be welcome. This appeared to be a real concern for the allied health professions in all member states present at the meeting.
6. Although language requirements could not be seen to be a restriction, the significance of language requirements in relation to practice, particularly in professions such as speech and

language therapy, was acknowledged and further clarification would be forthcoming on this particular issue.

7. FIRANI, the Engineering Council's European organisation, had put together a common platform.

Proposed Action:

- Write to Internal Market Directorate expressing HPC's areas of concern;
- Talk to FIRANI about their system for common platforms;
- Suggest to Internal Market Directorate that it might be possible to set up a common platform for Regulators who capture similar information;
- Look at HPC's current data bases of decisions and pull out all those applicants who have been given registration without any requirement for periods of adaptation or aptitude tests. These could provide the basis for common platforms.