



JOINT STATEMENT

The European Public Health Alliance (EPHA)

The European Patients' Forum (EPF)

The European Women's Lobby (EWL)

The European Consumers' Organisation (BEUC)

HEALTH PROFESSIONALS' EDUCATION MUST NOT BE COMPROMISED IN NAME OF THE SINGLE MARKET

Europe's leading platforms for women's, patients' and consumers' rights, as well as the largest network of NGOs working on public health unite their voices in supporting health professionals in order to uphold the minimum education standards of the European health sector as set out in the Directive of Mutual Recognition of Professionals Qualifications. It is of utmost importance that quality and safety of care, as well as innovation and continuity of care, are maintained and promoted in the delivery of care. There is clear evidence that highly educated health professionals – many of whom are female, especially in the nursing sector - lead to better outcomes for patients, and a better life for all people living in Europe. **This fact must not be compromised to boost market figures.**

In response to the European Commission's Green Paper on Modernising the Professional Qualifications Directive, the signatories of this statement are in agreement that the free movement of professionals and services must be encouraged and facilitated in order to stimulate the dynamic re-launch of the Single Market. This includes simplifying administrative procedures with the support of new technology linked to the Internal Market Information system (IMI), and redesigning a number of existing barriers to mobility. However, it is crucial that education standards remain as high as possible to preserve the quality of services provided and their outcomes.

In the context of the modernisation of the Directive, EWL, EPF, BEUC and EPHA acknowledge the proposals of the Commission in maintaining and strengthening the minimum requirements for the automatic recognition system. Moreover, these minimum education and training conditions must never be downgraded nor diluted. Therefore, EWL, EPF, BEUC and EPHA stand by keeping the comparison base on levels of qualifications and avoiding partial access

being introduced for health professionals. The focus of the modernisation needs to be strengthening the requirements for trained health professionals to get a highly qualified workforce to tackle the healthcare challenges.

Hence we jointly call on the European Commission and the Member States to ensure a highly qualified EU workforce for health by:

- Maintaining the current minimum requirements for healthcare professionals who migrate within the EU;
- Reinforcing and improving minimum education and training standards under the automatic recognition regime as a benchmark to safeguard the safety of all people living in Europe; and
- Not applying the principle of partial access to the sectoral professions

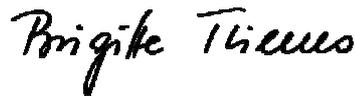
The undersigned highlight that undermining quality and safety of health services represents a dangerous risk that would encumber rather than fuel the economic success of the Single Market.



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