



# CEPLIS TELEGRAM

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## **This Issue's contents:**

- **Professional qualifications: the European Commission formally requests that Spain amends its national legislation applicable to the profession of dental practitioner**
- **The European Commission takes legal action again Sweden over health and safety controls**
- **MEPs to accept new College of European Commissioners**
- **The European Investment Bank and Bank Austria signed risk sharing agreement for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs)**
- **Conferences and events to come**

## **Professional qualifications: the European Commission formally requests that Spain amends its national legislation applicable to the profession of dental practitioner.**

The 28<sup>th</sup> of January 2010, the European Commission has addressed a reasoned opinion to Spain relating to the national legislation of this country towards the profession of dental practitioner. The Commission considers that the Spanish law is not in accordance with the prescriptions of the Directive 2005/36/EC on the recognition of professional qualifications.

As you now, the Directive in question aims at providing a framework for the recognition of professional qualifications EU wide.

The Spanish law in question dates of the time of the country accession to EU membership in January 1986. At that time, Spain was not recognizing a specific profession of dental practitioner. Spain benefited then from a special derogation that authorized medical practitioners specialized in stomatology (with a basic medical training started no later than the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 1986) to exercise the profession of dental practitioner. Today, Spain still allows medical practitioners specialized in maxillo-facial and oral surgery to exercise as dental practitioners.

According to the Directive 2005/36/EC, the profession of dental practitioner should be recognized as a specific profession different from the one of medical practitioner, even if specialized in odontostomatology. The Spanish law seems not to take into account these provisions by the Community law. The European Commission has thus formally required the modification of the Spanish national legislation in order for the latter to comply with Community law.

## **The European Commission takes legal action again Sweden over health and safety controls.**

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of January, the European Commission has sent a reasoned opinion to Sweden for not providing for controls on the health and safety of workers when an employer changes company status.

Under the current Swedish national legislation, the decisions issued by the Labour Inspectorate (Arbetsmiljöverket) lose directly effect if an employer changes societal identity for organizational reasons. This means that an employer is no longer obliged to respect the health and safety measures decided by the labour inspection under his/her previous societal identity.

The European Commission seems to consider that this attitude may jeopardize worker's health and safety at work. According to the Directive on health and safety at work (89/391/EEC), Member States are required to provide sufficient controls of health and safety ensuring that employers, workers and workers' representatives are subject to the legal provisions necessary for the implementation of the Directive.

Sweden has two months to respond to the European Commission's reasoned opinion. If an EU Member State does not respond in time to a reasoned opinion, the case is brought to the Court of Justice of the European Union in Luxembourg.

## **MEPs to accept the new College of European Commissioners**

Since all the Commissioners-designate have now passed their nomination hearing at the European Parliament, the final vote of the House on the entire College is scheduled for next week (9<sup>th</sup> of February).



**Mrs. Kristalina Georgieva**

The last Commissioner candidate to be interrogated by MEPs was the one in charge of International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response, since the first candidate for the post, Mrs. Jeleva, was forced to withdraw following a poor performance at her hearing and accusations of various kinds, Mrs. Kristalina Georgieva, former Vice President and Corporate Secretary of the World Bank Group, was thus nominated as the new Bulgarian Commissioner candidate for the post.

She has now successfully passed her audition and did indeed much better than her predecessor.

As a consequence of the withdrawal in question, **Political Groups in the European Parliament are no longer requesting portfolio reshuffles, new auditions or the replacement of Commissioners-designate.** The removal of this candidate was indeed seen as a political victory especially for the Socialists & Democrats (S&D) Group.

However, it must be said that the auditions revealed that the portfolio attributions of President Barroso had led to an **unprecedented overlap of responsibilities** which can be seen as a risk factor in the years to come. This overlapping highlights according to many analysts Mrs. Barroso's strategy of becoming the sole arbiter and thus gaining a precious advantage for future conflicts between Commissioners.

Our Secretariat will keep you informed on any further evolution.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The European Investment Bank and Bank Austria sign risk sharing agreement for Small and Medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)</b></p>
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The European Investment Bank (EIB) and Bank Austria have signed the 29<sup>th</sup> of last January a risk sharing agreement in Vienna, under which the **EIB will in future no longer act purely as a provider of funding to Bank Austria but also as grant low-interest loans to businesses.**

In that respect, EIB will co-finance a total volume of operations limited to 75 million EUR and this amount will be matched by Bank Austria. Under this agreement both partners will share the credit risk fifty-fifty.

According to Mr. Kollatz-Ahnen, EIB Vice-president, with this pilot project "*the EIB will be taking on some of the risk in order to give a greater boost to those segments of the market in which commercial banks want or need to have additional risk partners. It should help to mitigate the effects of the current economic crisis by granting firms better access to medium and long-term funding on favourable terms*".

These new low-interest loans are specifically dedicated to Small businesses and medium-sized firms with up to 3000 employees. A special attention is also given to technology and environmental projects with a total value of up to 25 million EUR. The loans will run between 3 and 12 years. If this pilot project is a success, further tranches will be considered.

For further information please refer to: [www.bankaustria.at](http://www.bankaustria.at)

## conferences and events to come

- “An EU Roadmap for a Sustainable Economic and Social Recovery” organized by the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)  
18-19 March 2010 in the premises of EESC  
For more information: [http://www.eesc.europa.eu/index\\_en.asp](http://www.eesc.europa.eu/index_en.asp)