



CEPLIS TELEGRAM

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The European Commission takes action against Austria and France on the implementation of the Directive on Professional Qualifications.

The European Commission has taken action against Austria and France to ensure that these two Member States will effectively implement the Directive on the Recognition of Professional Qualifications (2005/36/EC).

As you remember, (see *CEPLIS Telegram n°22.09*), the Scoreboard on the state of implementation of the Directive in question, published by the European Commission, was indicating that Austria and France have not completed the transposition of the text into their national legislation and were condemned by the Court of Justice of the European Union (Austria : [C-477/08](#) and France : [C-468/08](#)).

The action of the European Commission consists in a letter of formal notice requesting full information on the action these countries have undertaken in order to comply with the decisions of the Court of Justice of the European Union regarding the implementation of the Directive on the Recognition of Professional Qualifications (2005/36/EC).

It is interesting to note that the initial deadline for the implementation of the Directive was the 20th of October 2007.

Paola Testori Coggi is appointed as the new Director General of the European Commission's DG for Health and Consumers (SANCO).



Mrs. Paola Testori Coggi, from Italy, has replaced **Mr. Robert Madelin**, from the United Kingdom, at the head of the Directorate General Health and Consumers.

Mrs. Testori Coggi joined the European Commission in 1983 in the Directorate General for Environment. She has worked with the cabinet of Commissioner Emma Bonino (Commissioner for Health and Fishing 1993-1999) as adviser on questions related to the Health of Consumers and she has notably collaborated with the drafting of the new EU policy on consumer health after the mad cow disease crisis. From 2000 to 2007, she was Director for the Safety of the Food Chain within the DG SANCO where she was in particular responsible for the White Paper on Food Safety (12/01/2000) and the legislative Action Program. Since August 2007, Mrs. Testori Coggi was acting as Deputy Director General of that same Directorate General.

Her predecessor Mr. Robert Madelin is appointed Director General of DG for Information Society and Media (INFSO).

Mr. Madelin was the Director General for Health and Consumer since January 2004. Prior to that, he was one of the Directors in the DG of Trade and was responsible for several international economic topics including biotechnology, standards, intellectual property, sustainable development, governance and bilateral trade relations with Asia.



The European Commission backs down on Harmonization of Consumer Rights.

The European Commission has recently modified its proposal aiming at harmonizing consumer rights in the European Union. This objective is in fact not considered as an option anymore; a change that might be the result of intense lobbying from several Member States.

"Full harmonization would not be appropriate or good for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises and might even lead to higher consumers prices" declared Justice

Commissioner Viviane Reding addressing a hearing on the Consumer Rights Directive Proposal in the European Parliament on the 15th of this last April.

Following the declaration in question a joint letter was sent from the **European Association of Craft, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises** (UEAPME); **BusinessEurope**, the main horizontal business organization at the EU level; and **Eurocommerce**, the retail, wholesale and international trade representation at the EU level. These Bodies firmly oppose revisions providing a mix between full and minimum harmonization of rights because they feel such a regime would neither improve legal certainty nor remove legal fragmentation, which are both states objectives of the revision. All three organizations believe that such revisions would contradict the essence of an internal market which is defined as a space without internal frontiers and puts at risk any innovative concepts of distribution.

Commissioner Reding declared she would set up next week a high-level group of experts to turn the Commission's current proposal – which she referred to as a “voluminous” and “academic” document – into a workable future directive on consumer protection.

Conferences and events to come

- **General Assembly of the European Council of Nursing Regulators (FEPI)**
Date: Wednesday, the 19th of May 2010
Venue: An Bord Altranais Premises – 18/20 Carysford Avenue, Blackrock Dublin, Ireland.
Time: from 9.30 am to 4.00 pm
contact info: www.fepi.org
- **The 2nd Consumer Rights Directive Forum: Gaining trust in the Internal Market?**
Date: Wednesday, the 2nd of June 2010
Venue: Stanhope Hotel Brussels, rue du Commerce 9 B-1000 Brussels
Time: from 01.30 pm to 5.00pm
contact info: www.consumer-rights-directive.eu