



CEPLIS TELEGRAM

*The European Council of the Liberal
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In Belgium, the number of Liberal Professions has doubled in 10 years.

According to our Belgian colleagues from the “Federatie voor Vrije and Intellectuele Beroepen” (FVIB) , the number of Liberal Professions has doubled in the Kingdom during these last ten years. At the end of 2009, Belgium had 228 142 workers exercising a Liberal Profession; a 51,7% more than in 1999.

In its annual report, the FVIB explains that the liberal professionals represent 24,4% out of the total number of independent workers in Belgium. It is the second largest professional sector after the Trade one. The FVIB has built a small profile of the “Belgian liberal professional X”; a man aged between 35 and 40 years old and working in the medical or para-medical field. In deed, 37,1% of the professionals are exercising in fields related to the medical or para-medical sector such as Physicians, Nurses, Psychologists,...

The Federation underlines that the success of the Liberal Professions could be explained by a low economic dependence, the security of employment and professional independence. Furthermore, the FVIB thinks that the Liberal Professions enjoy a positive reputation amongst the population of Belgium and that the Belgian society is moving towards a “services oriented” approach.

CEPLIS establishes contacts with the Council of Europe and the European Court of Human Rights.

CEPLIS President, **Jacques Reignault** and Director General, Theodoros Koutroubas had the opportunity to meet earlier this month in Strasbourg with representatives of the two most important non-EU-related European organisations established in the capital of Alsace. Both meetings were made possible thanks to the personal contacts of the President of the European Federation of Osteopaths (EFO), **Mr. Armand Gersanois**, our Treasurer, who lives and works in this so international French city.



In the Council of Europe (<http://www.coe.int/>), the delegation of CEPLIS has met with **Ms Louise Barton**, Adviser in the Private Office of the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General. Ms Barton discussed with us the possibility of CEPLIS to integrate the “International Conference of NGOs”, which is the Council’s equivalent of our Brussels “agreed organizations” system. According to her, the European Liberal Professions could bring valuable input in the works of the Council on issues relating to Bioethics, Academic standards, capacity building and training of lawyers to European law, the quality of medicines as well as the preservation of the artisti Patrimony, etc. The Secretariat of CEPLIS is already in contact with the responsible of the Working Groups of the Council of Europe on these issues and will be keeping you regularly updated on the possibilities to contribute your input.

In the European Court of Human Rights (http://www.echr.coe.int/echr/Homepage_EN), our representatives met with the President, **Mr. Jean-Paul Costa**, who underlined the important feedback the Liberal Professions can have at the level of the struggle for respect of Human Rights in the context of their role as intermediaries between the citizens and the public authorities.



Conference “Investing in Europe’s Health Workforce of Tomorrow: Scope for Innovation and Collaboration”, 9 and 10 September 2010.

The Member States of the European Union are increasingly finding themselves faced with similar challenges regarding the availability of competent health professionals. National measures are often insufficient to deal with the changing and growing demand. In that context the Belgian Presidency of the European Council is organizing a Ministerial Conference wishing to bring together the Member States to discuss an effective policy for the future with regard to innovation and cooperation.

In the course of the 2-day works (9 & 10 September 2010) the following topics will be tackled :

- **Assessment of health professionals in the future:** what are the assessment models for the planning of future requirements?

-**Skill-mix and redistribution of tasks:**

The skills profiles of the various groups of health workers must be reviewed against the background of growing deficits and ever increasing quality requirements. Life long learning and permanent recycling have become crucial in keeping skills and current knowledge.

- **Improving working conditions:** How can we create better working conditions to attract health professionals?

- **Improving quality, safety and efficiency.** Health professionals play an important role in improving the quality of public health. How can we provide them with better quality, safety and efficiency?

The four topics will be considered two by two in parallel sessions.

Furthermore, two major debates will be held:

- a debate between the parties concerned ‘**How to take into account the professional requirements of motivated and competent health professionals**’.

- a Ministerial debate on ‘**The possibilities of innovation and collaboration for an effective policy for health professionals**’.

The Secretariat of CEPLIS will be there to report to you on the outcomes, please do not hesitate to contact us for further information.

For further information, please refer to:

<http://www.eutrio.be/ministerial-conference-investing-health-professionals-tomorrow-europe>