

President's Report about

Hearing on recognition of professional qualifications European Parliament – Committee on legal Affairs and Internal Market

Tuesday, 1st October 2002

After some introductory remarks by Mr. Bolkestein, Member of the European Commission, responsible for Internal Market, Taxation and Customs Union and Mr. Zappalà, Rapporteur on the proposal on recognition of professional qualifications 36 representatives got the rostrum for their presentations.

The President of CLGE got 3 minutes for his statement.

I started by introducing CLGE and some general remarks:

For CLGE there are two unsolved questions about the name of the proposed directive, the previous directive was about "Recognition of higher education diplomas" and today's proposal about "Professional Qualifications". If the change implicates a lower level of qualification for an easier access to the profession, then CLGE rejects this process of softening. We absolutely support the principal of achievement and not of sitting.

Secondly by using the term 'competition' without clear definition there seems to be a contradiction to the terms 'regulation' and 'consumer protection'. CLGE is not against competition but with the same footing and under equal conditions.

With this directive free movement should be achieved. But in our sector free movement is no problem at all. In my office I employ Polish, Portuguese and Irish people. Quality of education is the most important factor. My guys are good. CLGE don't want access by using the 'easy way out' principal like Mr. Scheyer stated.

But if we talk about free establishment than we have to make a difference between:

Geometre Experts

Professionals working selfemployed in trade and industry

Worldwide acting copanies with branches

The proposed directive does not facilitate these differences with their consequences.

At the end two detailed remarks:

Firstly to Art.14 (2) we propose to change the 'or' into 'and' because we are convinced that sitting a course is not enough there must be an examination compulsory.

Secondly we believe that under the consumer protection act it is necessary for professionals to announce their movement at the country where they provide the service as well as the country of origin.

For the rest we support the statement of Prof. Henssler.