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Results of the call for expression of interest in the introduction of the European Professional Card

On 18 October 2013, the Commission published a [call for expression of interest](#) inviting representative professional organisations and associations at national and EU level to express an interest in the introduction of the European Professional Card (EPC).

By 22 November 2013, the Commission received replies from the professional organisations and associations which are listed in Annex I, and spontaneous comments from other stakeholders, such as competent authorities, which are listed in Annex II.

Next steps

In order to streamline the process and make sure that it can be delivered by the end of the transposition period, the Commission proposes to continue the work regarding the introduction of the EPC with a limited number of professions.

The professions which have already expressed their interest, but are not retained by the Commission at this stage, and the professions which will manifest sufficient interest in the future, will be considered for the introduction of the EPC at a subsequent stage.

As provided by the Professional Qualifications Directive, as amended, the introduction of the EPC shall be subject to the following conditions (Article 4a(7)):

- “(a) there is significant mobility or potential for significant mobility in the profession concerned;*
- (b) there is sufficient interest expressed by the relevant stakeholders;*
- (c) the profession or the education and training geared to the pursuit of the profession is regulated in a significant number of Member States.”*

After a preliminary review of the characteristics of the professions who expressed an interest in the introduction of the EPC, the Commission considers that at this stage a more thorough

assessment has to take place in relation to the following professions which seem to fulfil to a large extent conditions imposed by the Professional Qualifications Directive, and without prejudging the final selection of professions for the EPC:

- a) doctors
- b) nurses
- c) pharmacists
- d) physiotherapists
- e) engineers
- f) mountain guides
- g) real estate agents.

On the basis of the interest expressed by the professional organisations and associations, the Commission invites all stakeholders related to the professions mentioned under point a) to g) above, and in particular the competent authorities empowered to receive applications and to take the decision on the recognition of professional qualifications for these professions, to comment on the interest expressed by these professional bodies to benefit from the EPC.

These comments should be sent to markt-e4-epc@ec.europa.eu no later than 10 January 2014 and, as much as possible, motivated against the conditions for the introduction of the card. Comments by competent authorities already submitted to the Commission on this issue will be taken into account. In that respect, the competent authorities do not have to resubmit their comments if they do not want to. All comments received will be published on the website of the Commission unless otherwise requested by the author of the comment. In addition, in early 2014 the Commission intends to contact the relevant stakeholders by means of questionnaires.

The Commission will also initiate a more in-depth analysis of the fulfilment of the conditions for the introduction of the EPC by these professions. It will propose the introduction of the card only for those professions which fully meet the selection criteria, taking also into account the need to ensure a smooth introduction of this new recognition process.

The Commission intends to set up a focus group to play an active role in the forthcoming discussions regarding the functioning of the EPC. The group will consist of a limited number of participants, including representatives of professional organisations at EU level as well as Member State competent authorities for the professions for which a more thorough assessment is undertaken at this stage. The first introductory meeting will take place on 31 January 2014, and will be followed by further meetings in the first trimester of 2014.

Annex I: List of professional organisations and associations who have responded to the call for the introduction of a European Professional Card in relation to their profession – 22 November 2013

Profession	Organisation / Association	Origin	Position
Doctors	Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME)	EU	No; to be involved in Focus Group
	European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS)	EU	Support
	European Union of General Practitioners (UEMO)	EU	To be involved in Focus Group
	Ordem dos Medicos	National (PT)	Support
	Polish Supreme Chamber of Physicians and Dentists	National (PL)	Support
	European Society of Radiology	EU	Neutral
	British Medical Association	National (UK)	No; to be involved in Focus Group
Nurses	European Federation of Nurses Associations (EFN)	EU	Support
	Union Générale des Infirmières de Belgique	National (BE)	
	Ordem dos Enfermeiros	National (PT)	
	Coordinamento Nazionale Associazione Professioni Sanitarie	National (IT)	
Midwives	Danish Association of Midwives	National (DK)	Support
	Ordem dos Enfermeiros	National	

		(PT)	
Dental practitioner	Polish Supreme Chamber of Physicians and Dentists	National (PL)	Support
	Confederazione Italiana libere Professioni	National (IT)	
Veterinary surgeons	National Statutory Body for the Veterinary profession in Italy	National (IT)	Support
	Confederazione Italiana libere Professioni	National (IT)	
	Associazione Nazionale Medici Veterinari Italiani	National (IT)	
Pharmacists	Federazione Ordini Farmacisti Italiani	National (IT)	Support
	Panhellenic Pharmaceutical Association	National (EL)	
	Pharmadanmark	National (DK)	
	Pharmaceutical Group of the European Union (PGEU)	EU	
12 health professions ⁱ	Union Nationale des Professionnels de Sante	National (FR)	Support
13 professions including health and engineering ¹	Wirtschaftskammer Österreich	National (AT)	Support

1) ¹Ingenieurbüros

2) Metalltechniker

3) Vermittlung von Dienstverträgen für unselbständige Sportler
(= eingeschränkte Form des reglementierten Gewerbes der Arbeitsvermittlung)

4) Vermittlung von Dienstverträgen für unselbständige Künstler
(= eingeschränkte Form des reglementierten Gewerbes der Arbeitsvermittlung)

5) Klinischer Psychologe

6) Psychotherapeut

7) Musiktherapeut

8) Hebamme

9) Gehobene medizinisch-technische Dienste (Physiotherapeut, Biomedizinischer Analytiker, Radiotechnologe, Ergotherapeut, etc.)

Architects	L'Associazione Liberi Architetti	National (IT)	Support
	Confederazione Italiana libere Professioni	National (IT)	
	Ordem dos Arquitectos	National (PT)	
Mountain guides	International Association of Mountain Guide Associations (IFMGA)	EU	Support
Engineers	European Council of Engineers Chambers	EU	Support
	European Federation of National Engineering Associations (FEANI)	EU	
	Czech Association of Scientific and Technical Societies	National (CZ)	
	Bundesingenieurkammer	National (DE)	
	Engineers Ireland	National (IE)	
	Association of German Engineers	National (DE)	
	Fédération Européenne d'Associations Nationales d'Ingénieurs	EU	
	Croatian Engineering Association	National (HR)	
	Portuguese Association of Engineers	National (PT)	

10) Gesundheits- und Krankenpflegeberufe

11) Kardiotechnischer Dienst – Diplomierte Kardiotechnikerin/Diplomierter Kardiotechniker

12) Medizinisch-technischer Fachdienst – Diplomierte medizinisch-technische Fachkraft

13) Sanitätshilfsdienste

	European Higher Engineering and Technical Professionals Association	EU	
	National Federation of Demolition Contractors	National (UK)	
	Koninklijk Instituut van Ingenieurs	National (NL)	
	L'Associazione Liberi Architetti	National (IT)	
	Consiglio Nazionale Ingegneri	National (IT)	
Physiotherapist	Panhellenic Association of Physiotherapists	National (EL)	Support
	World Confederation for Physical Therapy - European Region	EU	
Building Surveyors and Construction Experts	Association of European Building Surveyors & Construction Experts (AEEBC)	EU	Support
Refrigeration installers	Authorised Refrigeration Installers Association	National (DK)	Support
Psychologist	Confederazione Italiana libere Professioni	National (IT)	Support
	Associazione Psicologi Liberi Professionisti	National (IT)	
Osteopath	Union Fédérale des Ostéopathes de France (UFOF)	National (FR)	Support
Industrial expert	Confederazione Italiana libere Professioni	National (IT)	Support
	Associazione Nazionale Tecnici Liberi Professionisti	National (IT)	
	Consiglio nazionale dei periti industriali e dei periti industriali laureati	National (IT)	

Geologist	Confederazione Italiana libere Professioni	National (IT)	Support
Accountant / Auditor	Confederazione Italiana libere Professioni	National (IT)	Support
	Ordem dos Tecnicos Officiais de Contas	National (PT)	
	Associazione Nazionale Revisori Contabili	National (IT)	
	Ordre des Experts-Comptables	National (FR)	
Surveyor	Confederazione Italiana libere Professioni	National (IT)	Support
	Associazione Nazionale Tecnici Liberi Professionisti	National (IT)	
	Consiglio Nazionale Geometri e Geometri Laureati	National (IT)	
Land surveyor	Associazione Nazionale Tecnici Liberi Professionisti	National (IT)	Support
Ecologists and environmental managers	Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management	National (UK)	Support
Environmental health professional	Chartered Institute of Environmental Health	National (UK)	Support
Management accounting specialists	Assocontroller	National (IT)	Support
Dieticians	European Federation of the Associations of Dieticians	EU	Support
Court interpreter	Croatian Professional Association of Court Interpreters - HSUST	National (HR)	Support

Real estate agent	Conseil européen des Professions immobilières (CEPI)	EU	Support
	Federazione Italiana Agenti Immobiliari Professionali	National (IT)	
Pharmacy Technicians	European Association of Pharmacy Technicians	EU	Support
Clinical scientist	Association of Clinical Scientists	National (UK)	Support
Biomedical scientist	Austrian Association of Biomedical Scientists	National (AT)	Support
	Swiss Association for Professions in Biomedical Science (labmed)	National (CH)	
	Academy of Medical Laboratory Science	National (IE)	
	European Association for Professions in Biomedical Science	EU	
Tour leader	ANCOTUR Italian National Association for the profession of "Tour Leader"	National (IT)	Support
Tourist guide	Associazione Nazionale Guide Turistiche	National (IT)	No
	Federazione Italiana Guide turistiche Addompagnatori Interpreti	National (IT)	No
Travel agent	Federazione Italiana Associazioni Imprese Viaggi e Turismos	National (IT)	Support
Tourist car driver	Chambre Syndicale Nationale des Entreprises de Remise et de Tourisme	National (FR)	Support
Biologist	European Countries Biologists Association (ECBA)	EU	Support
Occupational therapist	Danish Association of Occupational Therapists	National (DK)	Support
Social worker	College of Social work	National (UK)	Support

	Association of social workers of Greece	National (EL)	
	International Federation of Social Workers	EU	
Social educator	Consejo General de Colegios de Educadoras y Educadores Sociales	National (ES)	Support
	Associazione Nazionale Educatori Professionali	National (IT)	
	International Association of social educators	EU	
Restorer	Confartigionato Imprese	National (IT)	Support
Valuer	Association of Chatered Valuers of Northern Greece	National (EL)	Support
Independent Consultant- Trainer	Syndicat des Consultants-Formateurs Indépendants	National (FR)	Support
Laboratory technician	Polish Society of Laboratory Diagnostics	National (PL)	Support
	Polish National Chamber of Laboratory Diagnosticians	National (PL)	
Medical physicist	Hellenic Association of Medical Physicists	National (EL)	Support
Health visitor	Greek Association of Health Visitors	National (EL)	Support
Wine maker	Portuguese Association of Oenology	National (PT)	Support
Food technologist	Consiglio Nazionale dei Tecnologi Alimentari	National (IT)	Support

Agronomist	Consiglio dell'Ordine Nazionale dei Dottori Agronomi e dei Dottori Forestali	National (IT)	Support
Assitant agronomist	Collegio Nazionale degli Agrotecnici e degli Agrotecnici Laureati	National (IT)	Support
Audiotherapist	Association Européenne des Audioprothésistes	EU	Support
Department practitioner	College of Operating Department Practitioners	National (UK)	Support
Labour law expert	Associazione Nazionale Consulenti del Lavoro	National (IT)	Support
Chemist	Consiglio Nazionale dei Chimici	National (IT)	Support
Speech therapist	Comité Permanent de Liaison des Orthophonistes/Logopedes de l'Union Européenne (CPLOL)	EU	Support
Professions in construction	Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS)	National (UK)	To be involved in Focus Group

Annex II: List of stakeholders who submitted spontaneous comments to the call for the introduction of a European Professional Card in relation to their profession – 22 November 2013

Profession	Organisation / Association	Origin	Position
Doctor, nurse, midwife, dentists, pharmacist,	European Health Professionals' Competent Authorities (EurHeCa)	EU	Support
Doctor	European Network of Medical Competent Authorities (ENMCA)	EU	To be involved in Focus Group
Pharmacist	General Pharmaceutical Council	National (UK)	Negative
Architect	School of Architecture Denmark	National	Support

		(DK)	
Engineer	European network for Accreditation of Engineering Education (ENAE)	EU	Support
Physiotherapist	Health and Care Professions Council	National (UK)	Support
15 health professions	Health and Care Professions Council	National (UK)	To be involved in Focus Group
Internal Auditor	Ministry of finance Croatia	National (HR)	Support
	General Medical Council on behalf of General Chiropractic Council, General Dental Council, General Medical Council, General Optical Council, General Osteopathic Council, General Pharmaceutical Council, Nursing and Midwifery Council, Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland	National (UK)	Questions

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- ⁱ o audioprothésistes,
 - o chirurgiens-dentistes,
 - o directeurs de laboratoires privés,
 - o infirmiers,
 - o masseurs-kinésithérapeutes rééducateurs,
 - o médecins généralistes et spécialistes,
 - o orthophonistes,
 - o orthoptistes,
 - o pédicures-podologues,
 - o pharmaciens titulaires d'officine,
 - o sages-femmes
 - o transporteurs sanitaires