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STEERING GROUP ON THE EUROPEAN PROFESSIONAL CARD

FIFTH MEETING – 8 JULY 2011

Meeting Report

The fifth meeting of the Steering Group on the European Professional Card took place in Brussels on 8 July 2011. The meeting was chaired by J. Tiedje, Head of Unit 'Free movement of professionals,' DG Internal Market and Services.

Introduction

The Chairman debriefed participants on recent developments and set out the current timetable for Commission work. He noted that a Green Paper on the modernisation of the Professional Qualifications Directive was published on 22 June and the period of consultation would be through 20 September. A possible legislative proposal for an amended Directive is likely by the end of 2011.

Follow-up to the Non Paper

The Chairman commented on the **updated Non Paper** following contributions from participants and indicated which scenarios were taken up in the context of the Green Paper (scenarios 3 and 6 are not covered). He signalled that it will be updated to note comments from participants, including those already received from FEG.

State of play of the case studies on doctors, engineers, nurses, physiotherapists and tourist guides

Individual rapporteurs presented feedback from work in the various the sub-groups that had been conducted prior to this meeting – B. Berger (doctors), T. Koutroubas (engineers), P. De Raeve (nurses), M. Seale (physiotherapists); E. Du Chalard (Commission on tourist sector) presented the work of the sub-group on tourist guides.

Pharmacists – Presentation of a paper

P. Fortuit (Ordre national des pharmaciens) presented a paper exploring the added value of a professional card for the pharmacist profession. The paper stresses patient safety, supports the use of national databases (together with IMI) and sets out a preference for a smartcard. The proposed solution is based on the use of national cards - where available - that could be updated by adding a European function. J. Svarcaite (PGEU) signalled that this paper is rather driven by ideas from competent authorities; the profession of pharmacists is still considering the value added of a professional card for pharmacists.

Real estate professions - Presentation of a paper

X. Ortegat (CEPI) presented a paper exploring the added value of a professional card for the real estate professions. The paper sets out two options, one of which would build on a link with a common point of reference (such as common platforms, a common training programme, etc), whilst the other option would be to offer a card to all professionals concerned even if they do not meet a common point of reference; indicates that professional competences could be relied upon to facilitate mobility from non-regulating to regulating Member States; supports a link with IMI and national registers; favours a plastic card, but also an electronic certificate.

Possible role of IMI in the professional card project

M. Grubben (Commission) made a presentation illustrating a number of **options for a possible use of IMI** (Internal Market Information system) to support the functioning of the professional card. IMI could serve as an interface between competent authorities to check the validity of a professional card, with a possibility to combine this process with a request for recognition via IMI. Another possibility is to develop a professionals' file repository in IMI with the option for an e-professional card via IMI. A further option would be to develop a web interface with access points for professionals and other defined groups, such as consumer organisations. Several participants highlighted that these scenarios are most useful for the forthcoming case studies.

Discussion in sub-groups

The sub-groups continued their discussions on the case studies, focusing on the key issues identified in the morning session, and ways to organise their work for completing the case studies. The sub-groups were invited to confirm the lists of their respective members, as well as the Member States that they wish to consult in the context of their case studies.

Next steps

The Chairman invited the sub-groups to send in their **completed case-studies** prior to the last Steering Group meeting of 13 September. Revised papers would also be expected to be provided by M Fortuit and by M Ortegat. The sub-groups were also invited to consider a specimen or a model illustrating how they envisage the professional card and its contents.

The participants were further **invited to register for the Single Market Forum** event scheduled to take place in Krakow (Poland) on 3-4 October 2011 where there will be a workshop on professional qualifications, notably the European professional card.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Meeting Steering Group European Professional Card

8 July 2011

<u>NAME OF PARTICIPANT</u>	<u>ORGANISATION</u>
BARON, Isabelle	Ordre des Pharmaciens (France)
BEGER, Birgit	Standing Committee of European Doctors
BOCHAR, Dirk	European Federation of National Engineering Associations (FEANI)
CAMPBELL, Oliver	Nursing and Midwifery Council
CRAPS, Roland	ER-WCPT
DE RAEVE, Paul	European Federation of Nurses' Association (EFN)
FAIRHURST, Tim	ETOA - European Tour Operators Association
FORTUIT, Patrick	Ordre des Pharmaciens (France)
GIMENEZ MAROTO, Ana	Ministerio de Sanidad, Política Social e Igualdad
GOMEZ, Silvia	European Federation of Nurses' Association (EFN)
HOEFNAGEL, Désirée	Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport (The Netherlands)
JOBI, Joachim	European Council of Engineers Chambers (ECEC) / European Network of Architectural Competent Authorities (ENACA)
JOKINEN, Mervi	European Midwives Association (EMA)
KALAMBOUKIDOU, Efi	European Federation of Tourist Guide Associations
KOUTROUBAS, Theodoros	European Council of Liberal Professions (CEPLIS)
MC NAMEE, Peter	Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE)
MILCEVIC, Tatjana	Danish Agency for International Education
ORTEGAT, Xavier	European Council of Real Estate Professions (CEPI)
PARIETTI, Carlo	EUROCADRES / ETUC
PEREZ, Hans-Sebastian	Ministère de la Santé (France)

PIERRET, France	European Travel Agents' and Tour Operators' Associations (ECTAA)
PIRES FERNANDES, Raul	Ordem dos Enfermeiros
PROSCIA, Francesco	Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE)
RAPTIS, Georgios	Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME)
RASKOVA, Zuzanna	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports
ROMAN, Agnes	European Trade Union Committee for Education (ETUCE)
RONZITTI, Emanuela	Ministry of Justice (Italy)
SCHUBERT, Tanja Nicole	Healthcare Professionals Crossing Borders
SEALE, Marc	Health Professions Council
SHERIDAN, Kevin	Association of European Building Surveyors and Construction Experts (AEEBC)
STORK, Stefan	Zentralverband des Deutschen Handwerks e.V. (ZDH)
SVARCAITE, Jurate	Pharmaceutical Group of the European Union (PGEU)
TOTH, Zsolt	Association of European Building Surveyors and Construction Experts (AEEBC)
WAGEMANS, Georges-François	SPF Santé Publique, Sécurité de la Chaîne Alimentaire et Environnement (Belgium)
ZAREMBA, Arleta	Ministry of Health, Department of Science and Higher Education (Poland)
ZILLMANN, Gunnar	Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Technologie
ZSIGMOND, András	Office of Health Authorisation and Administrative Procedures
BARAN, Bartosz	Ministry of Health (Poland)