



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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NOTE

from: General Secretariat of the Council
to: Council
Subject: EMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL POLICY, HEALTH AND CONSUMERS AFFAIRS
(EPSCO) COUNCIL MEETING ON 7 AND 8 JUNE 2010

Mutual recognition of qualifications for health professionals
(Other business item)

Delegations will find annexed an information note from the Danish delegation on the above-mentioned subject.

Mutual recognition of qualifications for health professionals

The European Commission is currently conducting an evaluation of the Professional Qualifications Directive (Directive 2005/36/EC) in order to assess to which extent the initial policy objectives set by this instrument have been met and whether there is a need for reform.

Denmark fully supports the work undertaken by the Commission and will participate actively in the process.

An essential part of the Directive concerns health professionals, and it foresees a minimum set of training requirements which allow that the acquired qualifications are automatically recognised by a host Member State.

Medical doctors with qualifications acquired in other countries and doctors that move from one country to another have attracted political attention in Denmark, the starting point of the debate being a concern about patient safety. The main public focus has been on medical doctors who have acquired their qualifications in a third country or in one of the Nordic countries.

It has been questioned whether the check conducted by the competent authorities in Denmark of qualifications acquired in other countries before granting a – temporary – authorisation to work in a Danish hospital is sufficient to ensure patient safety.

The question has also arisen whether the competent Danish authorities have access to all relevant information when a Danish hospital is planning to employ a medical doctor with foreign medical qualifications, i.e. access to information about the medical qualifications or authorisation acquired in another Member State or a third country.

Denmark will work actively to contribute to making the necessary progress in the ongoing work with the Directive in order to secure exchange between Member States of relevant information about qualifications, authorization, good standing of medical doctors working in one or more host Member States. This exchange of information should include problems and possible restrictions in the past on the doctor's right to exercise his or her profession.
