

Consultation Exercise on the Future Regime for Professional Recognition

The DG Internal Market has launched a vast consultation exercise in order to invite views on the future regime for professional recognition within the EU.

The document can be consulted on :

http://europa.eu.int/comm/internal_market/fr/qualifications/consult.htm

Please find hereafter the FEANI agreed response following consultation with its National Members. FEANI did also keep to the attention of the Commission its readiness to expand the response.

Brussels, 27 September 2001

FEANI answer on the EU consultation document Concerning the Future Regime for Professional Recognition

Answer to question 1

The General Directive does not provide sufficient certainty and transparency for the purposes of defining the requirements for professional recognition (education plus experience).

The General Directive did not always work properly for the engineering profession, because it had little impact in countries, where the profession is regulated. Some barriers have stayed, but the Directive has been helpful in resolving procedural problems.

The remaining problem concerns mainly independent engineers, as well as SMEs.

Answer to question 2

As far as engineering services are concerned, this is no requirement for additional liberalisation, but a request for a stricter application of the existing Directive 89/48 and the Bologna principles, without lowering the standards set by society. The creation of unnecessary barriers designed to protect against competition should be resisted.

Answer to question 3

FEANI is the logical platform for the engineering profession and aims to facilitate the mobility of engineers through the EUR ING system. Formal recognition of such a system within the new General Directive would promote wider adoption within Europe.

Answer to question 4

The new General Directive should provide European-wide self-regulation under delegated power granted to each profession. For the engineering profession FEANI provides the platform for such self-regulation.

Answer to question 5

It is envisaged that a supervisory committee formed from representatives of each profession be required to supervise the application under delegated powers of the General Directive in each profession.

Each profession should be self-regulated by a committee formed from national representatives and FEANI provides such a platform for the engineering profession.

FEANI respectfully requests the Commission to use its influence with National Governments so as to speed up the harmonisation of regulated areas of the engineering profession.

Answer to question 6 and 7

The General Directive should make provision for a single source of information regarding the requirement for recognition within each profession. FEANI is finalising the development of a single platform for the engineering profession making use of present-day information technology.

Answer to question 8

The new General Directive should acknowledge a requirement for professions to maintain standards that are acceptable to society. It should also ensure that European professionals achieve and maintain worldwide recognition.

