

## Statement from the European Commission

*WRITTEN QUESTION E-3429/93*

*by Christian Rovsing (PPE)*

*to the Commission*

*(2 December 1993)*

*(94/C 268/72)*

### **Question:**

FEANI, The European Federation of National Engineering Associations has set up a 'Register of EUR ING' with the aim of facilitating free movement of engineers by means of mutual recognition of professional qualifications.

The minimum requirements for admission to the register are:

- Full secondary education,
- Training extended over 7 years, including at least 3 years' theoretical education at university level in an establishment recognized by FEANI and two years of assessed engineering professional experience.

The requirements are thus higher than the requirements laid down in the general Directive. Applicants for registration must be recommended by their National Association and accepted by the European Monitoring Committee before obtaining the FEANI title EUR ING (European Engineer).

More than 16.000 engineers have (October 1993) received the title EUR ING.

Does the Commission feel that this kind of initiative, the only one so far among the professions concerned in the general directive, may facilitate the free circulation of professionals in the EEC countries, and to what extent could the FEANI title facilitate the recognition of national diplomas among Member States?

### **Answer**

*given by Mr. Vanni d'Archirafi*

*on behalf of the Commission*

*(10 march 1994)*

The Commission has followed the work of the FEANI (The European Federation of European Engineering Associations) and in particular, its creation of the EUR ING register with great interest over the years. The Commission considers that the FEANI scheme is an excellent example of self-regulation by a profession at European level and it provides a model for other professional groups in the technical and scientific sector, such as chemists and physicists.

The FEANI register recognizes and builds upon the diversity of forms of engineering education, which exist in the Community and can adapt to any changes, which may be

decided upon at national level. The procedures for dealing with applications for registration also provide a good respective expertise.

Although the EUR ING title cannot itself be considered as a 'diploma' within the meaning of Article 1(a) of Council Directive 89/48/EEC of 21 December 1988 on a general system for the recognition of higher education diplomas (1), it may nevertheless be of assistance to the competent national authorities when they examine a request for recognition under Article 3 of the Directive. Registration on the FEANI register indicates that, whatever the duration or content of his or her initial training, the engineer has reached a certain level of professional competence, certified by his or her peers both at national and European level. Bearing in mind that Member States are required by the caselaw of the Court (2) to take post-diploma professional experience (3) into consideration, when reaching their decision on recognition, the Commission considers that an engineer who has obtained the title of EUR INGs should not normally be required to undertake an adaptation period or sit an aptitude test, as provided for in Article 4 of Directive 89/48/EEC.

(1) *OJ No. L 19 du 24. 1. 1989.*

(2) *Cf. Case C-340/89, Vlassopoulou (1989), ECR-I-2357.*

(3) *Cf. reply to Written Question No. 2790/93.*

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