

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000620/16
to the Commission**

Izaskun Bilbao Barandica (ALDE)

(27 January 2016)

Subject: Recognition of Hungarian midwifery qualifications

A group of qualified Spanish nursing professionals decided to specialise in midwifery at Semmelweis University in Hungary. Those in the first intake had their qualifications recognised without any difficulty in their State of origin. However, those who graduated in the second intake failed to do so. Apparently, certificates issued in Hungary include the professional title but not the training qualification, something which, according to the Spanish authorities, prevents automatic recognition in accordance with the provisions of Directive 2005/36/EC. Semmelweis University maintains that its certificates are accepted without any problems in other States and are in line with EC law. The Spanish Ministry of Health will not recognise them and has merely informed those concerned of its contacts with the Hungarian authorities. Meanwhile, these persons have been unable to practise their profession since 2014.

1. Does the Commission consider, in the light of the information available, that the refusal of the Spanish Ministry of Health is in line with Directive 2005/36/EC?
2. Will the Commission take up this case, given that the qualifications of the first intake were recognised on the basis of the same legislation?
3. Does the EU have any control over the information that European universities issue to their students about the recognition of their qualifications in other Member States?

Answer given by Ms Bieńkowska on behalf of the Commission

(26 April 2016)

The Commission is aware of this issue. In order to clarify the situation, and in particular the compliance of midwifery training provided to Spanish nurses from Semmelweis University (Budapest, Hungary) with the minimum training conditions of Directive 2005/36/EC, the Commission is engaged in an ongoing dialogue with the Hungarian authorities.

The Commission does not have the competence to oversee the information that European universities make available to their students about the recognition of their qualifications in other Member States. This remains within the remit of the authorities of each Member State. In addition, pursuant to Directive 2005/36/EC Member States have to designate an assistance center to provide citizens with assistance concerning the recognition of their qualifications in other Member States.
