

Question for written answer E-007511/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Adam Szejnfeld (PPE)

Subject: Liberalisation of the liberal professions in the European Union

A liberal profession is one in which high-quality services are provided in a personal and professionally independent way, on the basis of the relevant knowledge. They are of benefit not only to the user of a particular service, but also further achievement of public goals, such as increased justice, safety, and health of the public. Liberal professions are also an intrinsic element that drives the European knowledge-based economy.

In most EU Member States however a large portion of these professions are traditionally heavily regulated, both with regard to entering a particular profession, its organisation, and activity.

The system of extensive and onerous regulation of liberal professions seems to be incompatible with the principles upon which the EU is founded, i.e. the principle of freedom of movement of services and the freedom to practise a profession in conditions which do not hamper competition. Requirements for access to certain professions which are too restrictive might also discourage young people from entering the labour market or even prevent them from doing so.

In October 2013 the European Commission adopted a communication announcing commencement of an analysis of national legislation regulating access to professions. That document laid down the framework enabling countries to put forward the first set of national plans of action for the period up until April 2015.

In this respect I would like to ask the Commission what conclusions can be drawn from the documents presented by the EU countries and what further steps are envisaged at EU level to support deregulation of liberal professions?