

**Question for written answer E-013773/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Jarosław Wałęsa (PPE)

Subject: Equality between Member States as regards mutual recognition of qualifications of cardiac surgeons

I have received many complaints concerning Directive 2005/36/EC, with regard to discriminatory treatment of cardiac surgeons. The main issue is the lack of equality between Member States in the automatic mutual recognition of qualifications. The problem lies with point 5.1.3 of Annex V, which does not list the specialty of cardiac surgery, while the specialty of combined cardiac and thoracic surgery is listed for some Member States.

As a result, where cardiac surgeons from Member States in which cardiac and thoracic surgery are considered to be separate specialties wish to work in their field in Member States which have the specialty of cardio-thoracic surgery, they have to work at a level below their qualifications (as a registrar rather than a consultant) and cannot be eligible for automatic recognition, while their colleagues in the thoracic surgery field are recognised automatically in respect of both medical specialties, even though they may lack cardiac training.

This issue affects cardiac specialists from many countries (Poland, Hungary, Austria) working in the UK.

What measures is the Commission taking to eliminate this inequality in the treatment of the two professions?

Is the Commission planning to add cardiac surgery to Annex V to the directive? What has happened as a result of Hungary's request of October 2012 in this connection?