



**Ensuring a balanced approach between protecting public interest objectives, more consumer choice and free movement of professionals**

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at the workshop on reforming professional services on 11 July 2017

## *The European Council of the Liberal Professions (CEPLIS)*



- Liberal professions are independent and **highly qualified professions with special roles in regard to public trust and responsibility, in regard to health, safety and good living conditions of society, in regard to consumer protection and many other aspects**
- The European Council of the Liberal Professions (CEPLIS) is the only inter-professional association bringing together **the liberal professionals** at the Community level
- Its members are national inter-professional and European mono-professional bodies representative of the sector.

*Different views on the interpretation of the question which “public interest objectives” can justify “restrictive” professional regulations*



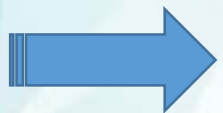
## Current situation:

- Very **narrow interpretation** based on court rulings but maybe even more so on interpretations of the European Commission and legal definitions
- EP resolution of 11 September 2013 on the Internal Market for Services contains strong appeal to remove existing regulatory burdens for service providers and even accuses Member States of often “using overriding reasons of public interest to protect and favour their domestic market”

*Different views on the interpretation of the question which “public interest objectives” can justify “restrictive” professional regulations*



The special role of liberal professions in regard to public trust and responsibility, safety and consumer protection etc. must be guaranteed by proportionate national professional regulation (better regulation)



**This requires a broader interpretation of justification reasons:**

- **by change of attitude**
- **where necessary: by change of exiting legislation / legal definitions**

*Different views in regard to economic impacts of professional deregulation measures*



**Criticism in regard to studies contracted by the EC:**

- Tendency to over-estimation of positive effects of professional de-regulation measures
- Results are not always transparent
- Negative economic (side) effects often not evaluated sufficiently even if they could swallow the positive effects.



**Re-thinking /re-assessing economic impacts of professional de-regulation with a better focus on negative effects as well**



## *Possible support from CEPLIS and other professional organizations*

- Support in **defining adequate justification reasons** for national professional regulation that are able to guarantee a fair balance between the different interests
- Support in **critically analyzing existing assessment studies and in defining adequate designs for future studies** that are focused on the impacts of professional deregulation