

Question for written answer E-001154/2022
to the Commission
Rule 138
Biljana Borzan (S&D)

Subject: Regulating the certified lactation consultant profession in the EU

All national International Board Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC) associations within Europe are united under the European Lactation Consultants Alliance, which promotes professional lactation care. The International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners establishes the standards in lactation and breastfeeding care worldwide and certifies individuals who meet these standards.

However, no national IBCLC association in the EU is recognised as a professional authority in lactation and breastfeeding care since lactation consultants are not yet classified as health professionals on the European Skills, Competences, Qualifications and Occupations (ESCO) list and the profession is listed as regulated in very few European countries.

1. What steps can the Commission take to help to identify and classify IBCLC as a professional occupation relevant for the EU labour market to resolve the problem of practitioners increasingly being required to have a recognised international qualification?
2. What actions is the Commission taking to support the proposal to include lactation care in the healthcare systems of EU countries?