

**Question for written answer E-000818/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Paradox of the clinical embryologist profession in Italy and the need to harmonise the postgraduate curriculum at EU level

With cases of infertility and sterility on the rise, the field of medically assisted reproduction has grown significantly over the past 20 years. Owing to the sophisticated procedures and equipment involved, not to mention the need for a collective multi-professional and multidisciplinary approach, medically assisted reproduction has today become something of a discipline in itself.

ESHRE¹ explains that this line of work is highly specialised and establishes the biologist's role and responsibilities.

In Italy, however, as in most EU Member States, the reproductive biologist (or embryologist) profession is neither formally recognised nor defined, and no ad hoc training courses exist. Indeed, the biomedical scientist profession is regulated in only four of the 27 European countries offering postgraduate programmes in training to be a clinical embryologist.

What is more, embryologists are not listed in the Database for Regulated Professions by Country, with Competent Authorities.

In the light of the above:

1. Does the Commission intend to promote cross-border cooperation and speed up the dissemination of knowledge and skills, so as to improve patient care?
2. Does it think that the current route into a career in clinical embryology in Italy² is consistent with the safety, professionalism and quality standards laid down in Directive 2004/23/EC?
3. Does it intend to promote a common pathway that would lead to the recognition of clinical embryology as a profession?

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¹ European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology

² <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/14647273.2022.2045040>