

**Question for written answer E-002331/2023
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Clare Daly (The Left)

Subject: Scope of the Professional Qualifications Directive

Outside of the context of automatic recognition, Member States have full discretion regarding the arrangements for regulating professions (as regards qualifications), and at least 15 Member States recognise, in their national systems, architects who are not eligible for automatic mutual recognition through the Professional Qualifications Directive (Directive 2005/36/EC)¹.

Ireland is one of these states and has four national registration routes where applicants do not provide evidence of any formal qualifications whatsoever. The four routes are: the Minister's List, the Prescribed Register Admission Examination, the Technical Assessment and the Distinguished Service route². These routes and national registration itself confer no formal qualification on any registered architect.

In spite of past written answers³ as well as provisions in the directive, such as the final definition of 'professional qualifications' given in Article 3(1)(b), the expression 'professional training' in Article 3(1)(c) and the inclusion of 'architect' in Article 10(b), the Irish authorities believe that a home state architect who holds no formal qualifications is automatically excluded from the general system by Article 10(c), which is said to show that the recognition of professional experience, defined in Article 3(1)(f), does not apply to migrant architects.

Can the Commission comment on this reading of the directive?

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¹ O'Flanagan, M. H., *Modernisation of the Professional Qualifications Directive and impact on the architectural profession*, Architects' Council of Europe, 15 September 2014, p. 10.

² Part 3, The Building Control Act 2007, Number 21 of 2007, Government of Ireland.

³ Joint answer given by Michel Barnier on behalf of the Commission to Written Questions: E-012450/11 and E-000673/12 on 21 February 2012; answer given by Michel Barnier on behalf of the Commission to Written Question: E-007522/2012 on 18 September 2012; answer given by Michel Barnier on behalf of the Commission to Written Question: P-007738/2012 on 28 September 2012.