

**Question for oral answer O-000018/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 115

Malcolm Harbour, Andreas Schwab

on behalf of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection

Subject: Commission communication on 'Evaluating national regulations on access to professions'(COM(2013)0676)

On 2 October 2013, the Commission adopted a communication on evaluating national regulations on access to professions which sets out a framework enabling Member States to present a first set of national action plans by April 2015. This work will allow the Commission, together with the Member States, to ascertain whether formal qualifications and occupations correspond to the same skills and qualifications in all Member States. It is also regarded as an effective way of making free movement of professionals possible by reducing the number of regulated professions in the EU.

1. Given that some professions have more cross-border activities or a higher mobility potential, does the Commission consider it appropriate to first prioritise the transparency mechanism in respect of these professional groups before following up with other professions?
2. If not, will the Commission give those professional groups with less cross-border activities more time to collect data?
3. According to the Commission, what procedures should be set up by Member States in order to involve professional bodies, especially health professionals, when preparing the specific justifications which have to be submitted to the Commission after the data collection phase?
4. Some professions which will be subject to evaluation under the Professional Qualifications Directive have already been examined in the context of the peer review conducted under the Services Directive. In this respect, could the Commission provide details and examples of how the regulation of professions can hamper the free movement of professionals? How will the Commission avoid unnecessary duplication with the peer review exercise and ensure that the proposed timeframe will be sustainable for these professions?
5. What concrete figures or examples does the Commission have to prove that increasing access to professions can generate growth and mobility?

Tabled: 23.1.2014

Forwarded: 27.1.2014

Deadline for reply: 3.2.2014