

WRITTEN QUESTION P-0273/03  
by Evelyne Gebhardt (PSE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the recognition of professional qualifications

The new proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the recognition of professional qualifications (COM(2002) 119<sup>1</sup>) is to be welcomed. This piece of legislation is in the interest of all European citizens, since it represents a further step towards bringing about the free movement of workers within the EU. The Commission has also succeeded in including in its draft directive matters relating to consumer protection and safeguarding the quality of training.

In Germany, nevertheless, a degree of uncertainty remains as regards safeguarding the quality of training in particular. More and more people have complained to me that the new directive impinges on the powers of the Member States. Among other things, it is claimed that the directive will extend responsibility for training in trades, which in Germany rests exclusively with master craftsmen, to all self-employed tradesmen. Is it correct that, under the new European legislation on the recognition of professional qualifications, people who are not qualified as master craftsmen will also be permitted to offer training in the various trades?

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<sup>1</sup> OJ C 181 E, 30.7.2002, p. 183.