



# **The Engineering Recognition in Europe – The ECEC perspective**

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# MOBILITY OF CHARTERED ENGINEERS – CURRENT SITUATION



## Main facts:

- Majority of Chartered Engineers is not active outside the home country
- Lack of capacity in SMEs and Microenterprises
- Market is often not accessible even if professional qualification is recognised

# MOBILITY OF CHARTERED ENGINEERS – CURRENT SITUATION



## Problems of Market access:

- Differences in scope of services
- Different standards
- Language requirements
- Discriminating regulations in other than professional laws (building laws etc.)
- Different software systems for procurement procedures
- etc.

# MOBILITY OF CHARTERED ENGINEERS – CURRENT SITUATION



**Mobility can only be enforced by changes of the PQD which are able to influence market access:**

- Example 1: Clarification in the directive that it is sufficient to provide the necessary language skills via an employee or a translator can solve a common market access problem
- Example 2: Lowering quality requirements will have almost no effect on mobility as it does not influence the main market access problems.

# PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION DIRECTIVE – NEW APPROACHES OF THE EC



## Approaches supported by the ECEC:

### Common Platform:

- Lowering the current threshold requirements from agreement of two-thirds of the Member States to one third for the creation of a common platform
- Clarification that the suggested internal market test cannot prevent the creation of a platform with the sole argument that there are non-participating member states that cannot fulfil the qualification level on which the participating Member States have agreed

# PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION DIRECTIVE – NEW APPROACHES OF THE EC



## Approaches supported by the ECEC:

### “Virtual” professional card:

- Establishment of a **virtual certificate** exchanged between the different Competent Authorities of the Members States with the aim to accelerate the recognition procedure and reduce the costs
- Obligation to name a public competent authority in non-regulated countries for issuing the certificates
- Stronger involvement of the home member state in recognition procedures

# PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION DIRECTIVE – NEW APPROACHES OF THE EC



## Approaches supported by the ECEC:

### Better access to information:

- Obligation to ensure that information about competent authorities and required documents for the recognition of professional qualifications is available through a central online access point.
- Obligation to provide this information in English

# PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION DIRECTIVE – NEW APPROACHES OF THE EC



## Approaches supported by the ECEC:

### Training/practice abroad

- Possibility for graduates of an academic training to obtain supervised professional practice in another member state and to get this practice accepted for professional access in the home country



# **PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION DIRECTIVE – NEW APPROACHES OF THE EC**



## **Approaches NOT acceptable for the ECEC:**

**Opening up the general system/**

**Deletion of the classification in Article 11 :**

- Current system is practical and widely accepted
- Current system is very clear for clients and consumers
- Current system prevents the “erosion” of national qualification requirements.
- No acceptable alternative is offered by the Commission
- Additional cost and efforts would arise for applicants as well as competent authorities

# PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION DIRECTIVE – NEW APPROACHES OF THE EC



## Approaches NOT acceptable for the ECEC:

### Partial access to the profession :

- Partial access is only a question in exceptional individual cases for which the reference to the principles of the EU Treaty and the decision of the European Court of Justice should be enough
- Partial access leads to confusion and uncertainty of clients/consumers, fragments the market and is difficult to handle for national (controlling) authorities.

## CONCLUSION



Directive should allow different approaches for different professions or different forms of practising a profession (e.g. self employed, employees).



**Thank you for your attention**