

CEPLIS TELEGRAM



European Council of the Liberal Professions

Rue du Tabellion, 66

1050 Brussels

Belgium

Tél.: + 32 2 511 44 39

secretariat@ceplis.org

<http://www.ceplis.org>



Date: 20/07/2023

Pages: 5

N°13/23

- Recognition of professional qualifications: European Commission decides to refer Cyprus and Malta to the Court of Justice of the European Union
- Union Profesional's President and CEPLIS' first Vice-President, Victoria Ortega: "Liberal Professions are safe socioeconomic players in a context of uncertainty"
- President Stella in talks with the Italian Government
- European Parliament finds the EU Ethics Body proposed by the European Commission "unsatisfactory"

Recognition of professional qualifications: European Commission decides to refer Cyprus and Malta to the Court of Justice of the European Union

The 14th of July, the European Commission has referred Cyprus and Malta to the Court of Justice of the European Union for incorrect transposition of EU rules on the recognition of professional qualifications (Directive 2005/36/EC as amended by Directive 2013/55/EU).

The European Commission believes in fact that current national rules of these Member States create unjustified obstacles to the recognition of professional qualifications cross-border and therefore obstruct professional mobility.



According to the Commission:

- The Cypriot legislation imposes unjustified preconditions for the recognition of professional qualifications of engineers and architects and does not fully ensure the automatic recognition for architects;
- The Maltese legislation imposes additional trainings and language requirements on medical and para-medical professions. In addition, it imposes excessive procedural and documentary requirements for veterinarians who wish to provide temporary services in Malta.

As the Commission considers that Cyprus and Malta are still in breach of EU rules, it has decided to refer the cases to the Court of Justice of the European Union.

Those infringement cases target obstacles on the skilled professionals in the construction sector, such as architects, engineers, electricians and gas installers. The construction sector has been identified as a priority sector in a recent Commission Communication 'Single Market at 30'. Furthermore, the Commission action focused on the barriers to medical and para-medical professions, veterinarians as well as on the obstacles resulting from excessive language requirements impacting the recognition of professional qualifications more generally.

You may find more information [here](#)

Union Profesional's President and CEPLIS' first Vice-President, Victoria Ortega: "Liberal Professions are safe socioeconomic players in context of uncertainty"

The July Bulletin of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), includes an interview with Union Profesional's (UP) President and CEPLIS' first Vice-President, Dr. Victoria Ortega, addressing the current Spanish Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

The interview in question was the opportunity for our Vice-President to underline **the main challenges to be tackled by her country's Presidency**: *"The presidency expects to play a leading role at the upcoming United Nations Summit on the 2030 Agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as at the Climate Change Conference. It has announced its intention to reform fiscal rules in order to enable Member States to maintain healthy public accounts while financing public services, the green transition and the digital transformation adequately."*



Victoria Ortega further stated her willingness to use this opportunity of this Presidency to:

- **Highlight the concept of a European professional, on which we have worked over this last decade in CEPLIS**, given the way the professions are directly concerned with safeguarding the fundamental rights of citizens;
- Show the progress that has been made with **lifelong learning and ethical regulation as guarantees of social progress**;
- **Focus particularly on the digitalisation of the professions subsector**, in line with the EU's and all the Member States' commitment with a view to a sustainable and equal future.

Professor Ortega also underlined the role of our socioeconomic sector as **she insisted on the safe and reassuring aspect of the Liberal Professions in a very uncertain climate**.

She concluded the interview by sharing **the wish of UP to collaborate with the Spanish Presidency during the coming 6 months, particularly on themes linked to the European Years of Skills**.

You may read the full transcript of the interview [here](#).

President Stella in talks with the Italian Government

At the occasion of a **meeting held the 19th of June with the Italian Minister of Institutional reforms, Maria Elisabetta Alberti Casellati, Confprofessioni and CEPLIS' President, Gaetano Stella,**

underlined the importance to rethink the administrative model that passes through the enhancement of the subsidiary role of freelancers:

“Freelancers become facilitators of the ecological transition, let's think of the incentives for the energy requalification of buildings or energy



communities, where multiple professional areas are at the forefront for the design and certification of works to guarantee legality and safety collective”. A point of view shared by Minister Casellati.

The meeting was indeed very fruitful as both sides were in agreement concerning the institutional reforms of the country. Mr. Stella further insisted on the need for a simplification of the structure of legislative power sharing between the State and the Regions and an acceleration on differentiated regionalism. *“As a social partner, we pay particular attention to the definition of LEP (Essential Levels of Performances) to guarantee the protection of civil and social rights and the relating needs and standard costs . We believe that supplementary forms of assistance, such as the Health Assistance Fund for Professional Studies (Cadiprof), which we set up, can alleviate the shortcomings of the National Health System, helping to achieve uniformity of performance levels throughout the country”*

The discussion was the opportunity for Confprofessioni to outline the position of professionals on some strategic issues for the constitutional architecture of the State, and for the Italian Government to illustrate the main themes of the institutional reforms on which it is working.

You may find more information [here](#).

European Parliament finds the EU Ethics Body proposed by the European Commission “unsatisfactory”

In a resolution adopted on the 12th of July with 365 votes in favour, the European Parliament called the Ethics Body draft agreement proposed by the European Commission “*unsatisfactory and not ambitious enough, falling short of a genuine, ethics body*”.

In this context, MEPs have expressed their regrets regarding the composition of the body. The Commission has indeed proposed only five independent experts as observers, rather than the nine-person body composed of independent ethic experts that the Parliament had previously suggested.

Furthermore, MEPs have insisted on the need for the ethics body have more power, in order to investigate alleged breaches of ethical rules, to request administrative documents, to investigate alleged breaches of ethics rules on its own initiative, and to deal with individual cases if a participating institution or any of its members request it.

Other key points raised in the resolution include the need for independent experts dealing with individual cases to work together with the member of the body representing the institution concerned, the body’s ability to receive and assess declarations of interest and assets, and its awareness-raising and guidance role.



As for the European Parliament’s own efforts towards more transparency, integrity, and accountability, MEPs underlined that the Parliament is currently reviewing its framework with a view to strengthening procedures on how to deal with breaches of its rules (in particular the Code of Conduct), to better define its sanctions mechanism, and structurally reform the relevant advisory committee. They emphasised that in recent corruption allegations, **NGOs appear to have been used as vectors of foreign interference, and call for an urgent review of existing regulations with the aim of making NGOs more transparent and accountable.**

You may find more information [here](#).