

1.

### Implementation of European working time Directive in Austria

Monika Vana MEP has questioned the EC on the recent introduction of a 12-hour day in Austria which she described as an attack on workers' rights. In response the EC stated that it had not been informed of Austria's intention to introduce a wider transposition of the opt-out provision of Directive 2003/88/EC and that it is currently assessing its compliance with EC law.

The full response can be [found here](#).

2.

### Extension of European professional card to other professions

Antonio López-Istúriz White MEP has questioned the EC over its plans to extend the scope of the European professional card to other professions, in particular to engineers. In response, the EC stated that it had suggested including engineers in the first group of professions to be covered by the EPC but at the time member states could not agree to this. The Commission is open to receiving expressions of interest by the relevant stakeholders and will explore with member states whether and to which professions the EPC could be extended. To date there are no specific timelines for such an extension.

The full response can be [found here](#).

3.

### RPQ Directive infringement proceedings

Annie Schreijer-Pierik MEP has asked the EC for further information on how it plans to monitor the implementation of the revised RPQ Directive, in particular the implementation of the European alert mechanism for medical practitioners. The Commission has responded by confirming that it has finalised the check of completeness of implementation of Directive 2013/55/EU, as all member states have now notified full transposition. It is currently analysing the national measures transposing the Directive to check the correctness of implementation. As regards the alert mechanism, the Commission is continuously monitoring the functioning of the system.

The full response can be [found here](#).

4.

### Application of Directive 2013/55/EU on health professions

Sophie Montel MEP has queried the application of the RPQ Directive on health professions and claimed that a number of countries have refused to transpose its provisions into national law. She stated that in France, transposition allows any healthcare professional from an EU member state to practise a profession in the healthcare sector provided that access to the profession is not regulated. In response, the EC has confirmed that the Directive does apply to the health professions including Article 4f on partial access.

The full response can be [found here](#).

5.

### Proportionality test before adopting a new regulation on professions

Dimitrios Papadimoulis MEP has questioned the EC on the newly adopted proportionality test Directive which, he states, will complicate the regulation process by creating excessive bureaucratic load, as well as potential legal impediments when adopting new regulation at national level. He has particular concerns about the impact on health professions whose regulation should be left exclusively to member states, based on each country's needs. He asked the EC what measures it is willing to take to ensure that public health and health professions are protected.

In response, the EC stated that the Directive confirms member states' margin of discretion on whether and how to regulate professions and what level of protection they would want to afford in relation to the public interest objectives that regulation seeks to protect. The Directive contains specific references to health professions and their regulation which confirm beyond any doubt that member states may seek the attainment of a high level of public health and patient safety protection through their regulation.

The full response can be [found here](#).

6.

### Impact of Brexit on healthcare in Ireland

Martina Anderson MEP has questioned the EC on the impact of Brexit on cross-border mobility of patients and healthcare professionals, particularly in relation to accessibility of health services in border regions and the recognition of professional qualifications.

In response, the EC stated that cross border collaboration in healthcare as well as access to specialised health services does not depend on the continued application of EU law. Persons and medical professionals will continue to be able to move freely between Northern Ireland and Ireland to access health services or their workplaces thanks to the Common Travel Area arrangements between Ireland and the UK. It further stated that once the UK withdraws from the EU, the RPQ Directive will no longer apply to and in Northern Ireland.

The full response can be [found here](#).

7.

### Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine in Annex V

Costas Mavrides MEP has questioned the EC on the inclusion of the title of physiotherapy rather than the correct title of physical and rehabilitation medicine in Annex V of the recognition of professional qualifications Directive. He argues that this causes confusion between medical specialists which benefit from automatic recognition and physiotherapists who do not benefit from automatic recognition. In response, the EC stated that the use of term 'physiotherapist' does not refer to physiotherapists but instead refers to a medical specialisation falling under the automatic recognition regime, otherwise known as physical and rehabilitation medicine.

The full response can be [found here](#).