



**JOINT STATEMENT BY EPHA AND EPF**  
**in the context of the evaluation of the Directive 2005/36/EC of the European Parliament**  
**and of the Council on the Recognition of Professional Qualifications**

The European Public Health Alliance **(EPHA)**

The European Patients' Forum **(EPF)**

***QUALITY AND SAFETY MUST REMAIN HIGH ON THE EU POLITICAL AGENDA***

Patients and the largest network of NGOs working on public health in Europe talk with a single voice in ensuring the quality and safety of the European citizens.

In line with the principles of the Single Market Act, EPHA and EPF agree that the free movement of professionals and services must be encouraged by simplifying administrative procedures and current barriers. However, these measures to boost the European economy and create more jobs should never jeopardise the quality of the services provided. This is particularly crucial in the health care sector.

In the context of the modernisation of the Directive on Recognition of Professional Qualifications, EPHA and EPF strongly call on the European Commission and Member States to ensure that the current requirements are maintained for healthcare professionals who migrate around Europe. Moreover, the minimum training conditions that allow the sectoral professions to benefit from automatic recognition must never be downgraded as that basis is the benchmark to safeguard European citizens' safety.

EPHA and EPF stress that downgrading the education and the requirements for the mobility of healthcare professionals, rather than being a real benefit for the Single Market, represents a risk that overshadows all the efforts made on quality and safety. The principles of quality and safety need to be at the core of the evaluation and revision of training and language requirements of the Directive.

EPHA and EPF call upon the Commission and the Member States to consider the modernisation of the Directive as an opportunity to improve quality and safety of care across Europe. It offers a momentum to assess and take into account new training needs of healthcare professionals in a changing healthcare environment, which needs to face long-term challenges such as an ageing

population and shortages in the workforce, and a shift in the role of patients towards greater empowerment and involvement.

The Directive on Patients' Rights in Cross-border healthcare recently adopted by the European Parliament will provide for cooperation on fitness to practise, and for more transparency towards the patients/ the public on the right of a specific healthcare provider to practise. EPHA and EPF recommend that the revision of this directive should be in coherence with these provisions and aim at complementing them to ensure safety of care, within also a cross-border context.



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