Question for written answer E-001079/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: Professional recognition of behaviour analysts in Europe

Current estimates suggest that approximately 15-20 % of children and adults (nine million people) across Europe are neurodiverse, meaning they think and behave differently from the general population. Most of these individuals have autism and/or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), with many also experiencing intellectual disabilities or mental health conditions. Applied behaviour analysis (ABA)-based interventions are associated with demonstrable improvements in overall quality of life for these individuals, especially when provided early in life.

In the United States, legislation endorsed by the US Surgeon General ensures professionally certified or licensed behaviour analysts provide high-quality ABA services in all 50 US states. In Europe, a significant shortage of training opportunities has created a vacuum where myths and misinformation about ABA abound. The profession is regulated in only two European countries: Czechia and the UK. Professional regulation is the only way to ensure evidence-based practice and protect consumers who would benefit from high-quality ABA services.

Therefore, I would like to ask the Commission:

1. What practical steps are being taken to support national regulation of the profession with regard to workforce planning?

2. To what extent is the professional recognition and regulation of behaviour analysts supported across Europe to facilitate cross-border mobility?

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