

Question for written answer E-002727/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
Marc Angel (S&D)

Subject: Draft delegated act updating the minimum training requirements for midwives under Directive 2005/36/EC

The Commission has published a draft delegated act updating the minimum training requirements for midwives under Directive 2005/36/EC¹.

Midwives play a central role in supporting women, newborns and families throughout pregnancy, childbirth and the postnatal period. As the quality of midwifery education directly influences the care received by millions of women across the EU, this revision represents an important opportunity to ensure that training requirements remain aligned with current scientific evidence, evolving professional practice and the healthcare needs of women and families.

In recent years, international organisations such as the World Health Organization and the International Confederation of Midwives have updated their educational standards and competency frameworks to reflect developments in areas including evidence-based care, continuity of care, perinatal mental health, neonatal care, and sexual and reproductive healthcare.

Given that Directive 2005/36/EC empowers the Commission to update minimum training requirements in the light of generally acknowledged scientific and technical progress:

1. How were these international standards, competency frameworks and the evidence underpinning them assessed and taken into account in preparing the draft delegated act?
2. Has the Commission assessed whether further updates, supported by broad professional consensus and established international standards, could be incorporated before the act is finalised?

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¹ Directive 2005/36/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 September 2005 on the recognition of professional qualifications (OJ L 255, 30.9.2005, p. 22, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2005/36/oj>).