

Question for written answer E-003145/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
Maria Zacharia (NI)

Subject: Professional exclusion of life scientists in Greece and compliance with EU law

Life sciences graduates in Greece, particularly graduates in biology and related fields, have always faced serious inequality when it comes to the recognition of professional qualifications. They have significantly restricted or no access to professional activities that are available to graduates of equivalent faculties in other Member States.

This issue appears to be linked to the continued existence of closed professions or fragmented laws governing professions with no clear proportionality assessment, in spite of the requirements of Directive (EU) 2018/958 on a proportionality test before adoption of new regulation of professions, and the principles of free movement of workers and freedom of establishment.

This situation is creating real distortions in the labour market and could lead to the unequal treatment of graduates with equivalent qualifications within the Union.

In view of this, can the Commission answer the following:

1. Has it looked into whether the existing restrictions faced by life sciences graduates in Greece with regard to accessing regulated professions are compatible with Directive (EU) 2018/958 and the principles of proportionality and non-discrimination under EU law?
2. Does it consider that continued exclusion from regulated professions without a substantiated proportionality assessment may constitute an infringement of Articles 45 and 49 TFEU?
3. Does it intend to ask the Greek authorities for information/data on the comparative treatment of life sciences graduates in Greece and other Member States?

Submitted: 27.7.2026