

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004138/25
to the Commission
Peter Agius (PPE)
(21 October 2025)**

Subject: Regulation of genetic counselling as an emerging healthcare profession

Genetic counselling is becoming increasingly recognised as a healthcare service, benefiting from regulation and professional recognition to help safeguard patients and ensure high standards of care. While well established in some Member States, the genetic counsellor profession is still emerging in most EU countries.

According to medical practitioners in Malta, authorities have indicated that constraints imposed by the EU, such as the proportionality test, prevent the introduction of a national regulatory framework for genetic counselling.

In this context:

1. Can the Commission confirm whether any EU legislation or policy prevents Member States from recognising or regulating emerging healthcare professions such as genetic counselling?
2. Does the Commission intend to take other steps to support patient safety and ensure consistent standards of care across the EU, including through the recognition and regulation of healthcare professions?

Submitted: 21.10.2025

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Séjourné on behalf of the European
Commission
(8 December 2025)**

The Commission confirms that EU legislation, including Directive (EU) 2018/958 (the Proportionality Test Directive ⁽¹⁾), does not prevent

Member States from recognising or regulating emerging healthcare professions, such as genetic counselling. The Proportionality Test Directive does not prohibit the introduction of national regulatory frameworks for new professions; rather, its purpose is to ensure that any new or amended national rules regulating professions are non-discriminatory, justified by legitimate public interest objectives, such as the protection of public health and safety, and proportionate.

The directive also specifically refers to the objective of ensuring a high level of human health protection when regulating healthcare professions that have patient safety implications.

Directive 2005/36/EC ⁽²⁾ supports mobility of professionals. Several healthcare professions are covered by the 'automatic' recognition system, based on minimum training requirements.

The Commission monitors scientific and technical progress and changes in national legislations and uses its delegated powers to update the minimum training requirements, with the aim to support patient safety and to reflect current healthcare standards.

It also explores the possibilities to extend the system of automatic recognition to other healthcare professions, through Common Training Frameworks.

Given the share of competences and differences in health systems across the EU, the Commission does not intend to propose EU standards of care for genetic counselling.

According to Article 168(7) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, Member States are responsible for the organisation and delivery of their health services and medical care.

1 <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32018L0958>.

2 <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:02005L0036-20250710>.