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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Mînzatu
on behalf of the European Commission
(5.12.2025)

The competence to regulate professions and organise healthcare systems belongs to the Member States, within the limits of EU law and the principle of proportionality¹.

The Commission is working to complete the Single Market by removing all barriers, including those related to recognition of professional qualifications.

Under the Union of Skills², the Skills Portability Initiative envisages actions to further facilitate, expand and modernise recognition processes for regulated professions. Under the Professional Qualifications Directive³, several healthcare professions are covered by the automatic recognition system, based on minimum training requirements, while the Commission is exploring which other regulated healthcare professions fulfil the conditions to benefit from automatic recognition through Common Training Frameworks (CTF).

CTFs can be established by the Commission in accordance with the conditions in Article 49a of Directive 2005/36/EC and must be based on existing commonalities in regulation and training. They are not a harmonisation measure as such; they provide a route of automatic recognition where the CTF minimum standards are met, but access to and pursuit of the profession remains possible (under the general system of the Directive) even when the CTF standards are not met.

¹ Article 168(7) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX%3A52025DC0090>.

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02005L0036-20250710>.