

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001070/26
to the Commission
Alex Agius Saliba (S&D)
(16 March 2026)**

Subject: Misclassification of physical and rehabilitation medicine in Annex V to Directive 2005/36/EC

Annex V to Directive 2005/36/EC on the recognition of professional qualifications ⁽¹⁾ appears to list the medical speciality of physical and rehabilitation medicine under the designation ‘physiotherapy’. However, physiotherapy is an allied health profession and not a medical speciality.

This apparent misclassification may undermine the proper recognition of physical and rehabilitation medicine as a medical discipline across the EU. It may also create legal uncertainty regarding the scope of professional qualifications, potentially affecting patient safety, quality of care and public health.

In addition, it has been suggested that responsibility for addressing this issue lies primarily with the Member States, despite the fact that Annex V forms part of EU legislation.

In this context:

1. Is the Commission aware of the apparent misclassification of physical and rehabilitation medicine in Annex V to Directive 2005/36/EC?
2. Does the Commission intend to propose a correction or clarification in order to ensure accurate recognition of this medical speciality at EU level?
3. How does the Commission assess the potential implications of this situation for legal certainty, patient safety and the functioning of the system for recognition of professional qualifications?

Submitted: 16.3.2026

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Mînzatu on behalf of the European Commission
(4 May 2026)**

The Commission has indeed received feedback from certain stakeholders indicating that a generic name ‘Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine’ would better reflect the scope of the national medical specialties currently listed in the table under the generic name ‘Physiotherapy’ in point 5.1.3 of Annex V to Directive 2005/36/EC ⁽¹⁾.

Currently, the Commission has the competence to update through delegated acts, upon notification from a Member State, the national titles listed in the table that give right to automatic recognition between Member States whose qualifications feature in the table.

Any change to the generic name of the table would require legislative amendment to the directive as it falls outside the delegated powers conferred on the Commission. The Commission is currently looking into the possibility of a systemic solution to this issue as part of its evaluation of Directive 2005/36/EC.

Annex V to the directive is used in the context of recognition procedures by competent authorities. Its contents and structure clearly indicate that professional qualifications of specialist doctors are recognised under the ‘automatic’ regime based on national evidence of formal qualifications expressly listed in point 5.1.3 of Annex V.

Member States notify the evidence of national qualifications to the Commission and on that basis the Commission regularly updates the annex through delegated acts.

Consequently, the names of national specialties in the annex reflect the current names used by Member States (e.g., *Medicina ta' Rijabilitazzjoni* for Malta) ⁽²⁾. This system ensures legal certainty for the automatic recognition of professional qualifications in medical specialties.

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>).

⁽¹⁾ Directive 2005/36/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 September 2005 on the recognition of professional qualifications, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02005L0036-20251029>.

⁽²⁾ Also, e.g., *Medicina fisica e riabilitativa* for Italy, *Physikalische und Rehabilitative Medizin* for Germany, or *Médecine physique et de réadaptation* for France.