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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Mînzatu
on behalf of the European Commission
(13.8.2026)

The Alert Mechanism set out in Directive 2005/36/EC¹ concerns certain professionals (including doctors) who are prohibited or restricted from pursuing professional activities. Member States are obliged to send alerts in the cases set out in the Directive. However, in line with the division of competencies in this area between the EU and the Member States², it is for the Member States to decide how to follow up on those alerts.

In any case, the Commission continuously monitors compliance by Member States with their obligations to send the alerts and focuses on continuous improvements of the Internal Market Information System and facilitating its use by the national authorities.

The new guidelines concerning alerts were published in January 2026³ and training sessions were provided to over 500 competent authorities in December 2025 and in March 2026. The Commission has also organised discussions with Member States' experts to facilitate exchange of best practices concerning legal and operational frameworks to follow up on alerts.

New IT developments have also been deployed, improving the search functionality, providing more information about the reasons of alerts, and allowing the Member States to re-evaluate and improve allocation of alert-handling duties to competent authorities. Furthermore, when developing new policy initiatives (the Skills Portability Initiative, Action 2)⁴, the Commission reflects on further integrating handling of alerts into possible common digital solutions and other related policy measures.

¹ Professional Qualifications Directive,

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02005L0036-20251029>.

² The definition of health policy, the organisation and delivery of health services and medical care as well as the organisation of education systems, are the responsibilities of Member States.

³ They can be found in the Internal Market Information System Library,

https://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/imi-net/library/index_en.htm.

⁴ https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/15894-Fair-labour-mobility-package-Skills-Portability-2-modernise-and-expand-recognition-processes-for-regulated-professions_en.