

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002727/26
to the Commission
Marc Angel (S&D)
(1 July 2026)**

Subject: Draft delegated act updating the minimum training requirements for midwives under Directive 2005/36/EC

The Commission has published a draft delegated act updating the minimum training requirements for midwives under Directive 2005/36/EC ⁽¹⁾.

Midwives play a central role in supporting women, newborns and families throughout pregnancy, childbirth and the postnatal period. As the quality of midwifery education directly influences the care received by millions of women across the EU, this revision represents an important opportunity to ensure that training requirements remain aligned with current scientific evidence, evolving professional practice and the healthcare needs of women and families.

In recent years, international organisations such as the World Health Organisation and the International Confederation of Midwives have updated their educational standards and competency frameworks to reflect developments in areas including evidence-based care, continuity of care, perinatal mental health, neonatal care, and sexual and reproductive healthcare.

Given that directive 2005/36/EC empowers the Commission to update minimum training requirements in the light of generally acknowledged scientific and technical progress:

1. How were these international standards, competency frameworks and the evidence underpinning them assessed and taken into account in preparing the draft delegated act?
2. Has the Commission assessed whether further updates, supported by broad professional consensus and established international standards, could be incorporated before the act is finalised?

Submitted: 1.7.2026

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Minzatu on behalf of the European Commission
(11 September 2026)**

Directive 2005/36/EC ⁽¹⁾ facilitates free movement of professionals in the internal market by setting the rules for mutual recognition of professional qualifications. Certain professions, including midwives, benefit from automatic recognition based on minimum training requirements set out in the directive.

The directive does not aim to fully harmonise training requirements. In line with Articles 165, 166 and 168(7) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, Member States are responsible for the organisation of their education and training systems, as well as for the definition of their health policy and the delivery of health services and medical care.

To ensure that the minimum training requirements set in the directive remain fit for purpose, the Commission may adopt delegated acts to update them in light of generally acknowledged scientific and technical progress.

The delegated directive updating minimum training requirements for midwives is based on the results of a study ⁽²⁾ published in July 2025, which was preceded by a thorough mapping of education and training requirements across the EU and broad stakeholder consultations.

In 2026, the Commission also consulted Member States via the Group of Coordinators established under Directive 2005/36/EC and launched a public feedback period via Have Your Say website ⁽³⁾.

Therefore, while the delegated directive indeed aims to reflect the broad professional consensus and established international standards, it must also remain within the delegated powers granted to the Commission under the directive, i.e., it must set out the minimum training requirements based on the requirements which are currently part of the midwifery training programmes in the majority of Member States.

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 the Council of 7 September 2005 on the recognition of professional qualifications, OJ L 255, 30.9.2005, p. 22-142, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2005/36/oj/eng>.

⁽²⁾ <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/9585c119-5e0a-11f0-a9d0-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>.

⁽³⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say_en.