

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003285/26
to the Commission
Matjaž Nemec (S&D)
(17 August 2026)**

Subject: Recognition of professional qualifications and obstacles to accessing permanent employment in the Slovenian-Italian cross-border area

The European Union promotes the development and attractiveness of cross-border regions and the efficient functioning of the cross-border labour market by removing administrative barriers and strengthening the free movement of workers. However, Slovenian teachers and professors working or wanting to work in Italy still face additional administrative requirements when trying to access permanent employment.

According to individuals and organisations affected, once their professional qualification has been recognised they can work as teachers on the basis of fixed-term contracts but need to go through an additional procedure to determine the equivalence of their academic title in order to be employed on a permanent basis. This practice can make access to permanent employment in a cross-border context more difficult. While the problem is currently most acute in the area of education, other regulated professions may face similar barriers.

1. Is such practice compatible with Directive 2005/36/EC and Article 45 TFEU?
2. Does the Commission intend to verify whether such requirements constitute a disproportionate obstacle to the effective functioning of the cross-border labour market and the free movement of workers?
3. Will the Commission, together with the Italian authorities, encourage the removal of administrative barriers that limit equal access to permanent employment in border regions?

Submitted: 17.8.2026

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

Directive 2005/36/EC lays down rules on the recognition of professional qualifications acquired in one Member State for the purpose of pursuing the same profession in another Member State where access to, or pursuit of, that profession is regulated by qualifications. Once recognition has been granted, professionals are entitled to practise the profession under the same conditions as nationals.

National authorities cannot impose an additional recognition procedure depending on the manner in which professionals intend to exercise the profession.

This is without prejudice to the right of the private or public employers to organise competitive recruitment procedures, potentially entailing writing and oral tests; such competitive recruitment procedures do not constitute additional recognition procedures and they fall under the competence of Member States, as long as these procedures comply with EU law which prohibits discrimination based on nationality between workers of the Member States as regards employment, remuneration and other conditions of work and employment.

The Commission will contact the Italian national coordinator for Directive 2005/36/EC to obtain further information on the issue raised by the Honourable Member.
