



On 12 May 2016, the CPME Executive Committee adopted the 'CPME Statement on classifications of professional qualifications and practice' (CPME 2016/055 FINAL)

CPME Statement on classifications of professional qualifications and practice

The Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME) represents national medical associations across Europe. We are committed to contributing the medical profession's point of view to EU institutions and European policy-making through pro-active cooperation on a wide range of health and healthcare related issues.

CPME reiterates its concern regarding the roll-out of EU-level initiatives seeking to establish a framework describing skills and competences, which neither adequately reflect the need to respect the Member States' competences to determine the regulation of healthcare professions according to national specificities, nor enshrine the necessary expertise to safeguard the validity and quality of outcomes.

At EU-level, the framework enshrined in Directive 2005/36/EC on the recognition of professional qualifications as amended by Directive 2013/55/EU must be respected as the sole valid reference point for EU-level regulation of doctors' qualifications and practice.

The multitude of initiatives and their distribution across various Directorate-Generals further contributes to the confusion as to the objective and status of the individual activities.

One pertinent example is the European Skills/Competences, Qualifications and Occupations (ESCO) project which seeks to create a taxonomy describing occupations and allocating skills to their profile. Neither the description of occupations for medical doctors nor the skills allocated to them can lay claim to EU-level validity. This taxonomy will be presented as an initiative of the European Commission and may be processed in various policy frameworks without further awareness of its limitations or the misrepresentation of legal facts.

CPME therefore does not support any policy initiatives which risk creating structures that, regardless of their degree of binding force, imply the creation of a valid reference framework, despite lacking the necessary legal legitimacy and coherence.

CPME calls on the EU institutions, in particular the European Commission, to reaffirm the legal framework established by Directive 2005/36/EC as amended and oppose and withdraw policy initiatives which fail to comply with the legislation.