May 30th, 2016

European Commission opens consultation on regulated professions in the EU

Following a two-year evaluation conducted in EU Member States to assess national regulations on professions and ensure proportionality to public interest legitimate needs, governments have produced National Action Plans aimed at addressing the gaps and ensuring the effective implementation of the regulations in place. The consultation launched by the European Commission provides interested parties the opportunity to give insight on the specific changes proposed by their government in its National Action Plan, to make suggestions for change that were not put forward and to share their views on whether the Government has conducted a sufficient review of the regulations and their effects before preparing the National Action Plan.

Additionally, the consultation provides an opportunity for stakeholders to provide feedback on the European Commission’s recently introduced analytical framework to be used by Member States when reviewing regulation. The analytical framework was developed in the framework of the EU Digital Single Market Strategy, which includes measures to improve the regulation of professional services. The European Commission especially seeks stakeholders’ views on the value of using such a scheme and the impact it could have on the regulations.

The deadline for providing input has been set at the 19th of August 2016 and contributions need to be submitted online via the following link. Contributions received will inform the European Commission report’s on the issue, expected to be presented to the European Parliament and the Council of the EU in January 2017. Results will be used by the Commission to make country and profession specific recommendations for reform.

Information on the National Action Plans, EU regulation on the Mutual evaluation of regulated professions and the Full list of professions regulated across the EU are available in the related links.