

## HEALTH FIRST EUROPE STATEMENT

**in the context of the evaluation of the Directive 2005/36/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Recognition of Professional Qualifications**

### ***QUALITY AND SAFETY ON THE TOP OF THE EU POLITICAL AGENDA***

Health First Europe (HFE), as an alliance of patients, healthcare professionals, academics and healthcare experts, acknowledges this opportunity to express their views regarding the modernisation of the Directive of Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications in order to ensure that high levels of quality and safety are maintained for the European citizens.

HFE supports innovative approaches to achieve sustainable national healthcare systems in Europe, and therefore agrees that the free movement of health professionals must be encouraged. But first, a sound investment in health professional's education is needed for that sustainability and to develop an effective, competent and motivated health workforce.

In line with that, HFE calls on the European Commission, the European Parliament and the EU Member States to ensure that the current education and training requirements are maintained for health professionals who migrate around Europe. Moreover, the minimum training conditions that allow the health professionals to benefit from automatic recognition must never be downgraded as that basis is the benchmark to safeguard European citizens' safety.

For HFE, it is extremely important to ensure that the measures to boost the creation of more jobs and the movement of professionals will not jeopardise the quality of the healthcare provided. Furthermore, it is important to stress that downgrading the education and the requirements for the mobility of professionals, rather than being a real benefit for the European citizens, represents a risk that overshadow all the efforts made on quality and safety, which principles need to be at the core of the evaluation and revision of this Directive.

## **JOHN**

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