Basic information

2026/0273(COD) COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Directive	Preparatory phase in Parliament
Digitalisation of procedures for the recognition of professional qualifications Amending Directive 2005/36/EC 2002/0061(COD) Amending Regulation (EU) No 1024/2012 2011/0226(COD) **Subject** 2.30 Free movement of workers 2.80 Cooperation between administrations 3.30.06 Information and communication technologies, digital technologies 4.15.06 Professional qualifications, recognition of qualifications	

Key players

European Parliament	**Committee responsible**	**Rapporteur**	**Appointed**
	Pending final decision on the referral		
	Committee for opinion	**Rapporteur for opinion**	**Appointed**
	Pending final decision on the referral		
	Committee for budgetary assessment	**Rapporteur for budgetary assessment**	**Appointed**
	Pending final decision on the referral		
Council of the European Union			
European Commission	**Commission DG**	**Commissioner**	
	Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion	MÎNZATU Roxana	
European Economic and Social Committee			

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
15/09/2026	Legislative proposal published	COM(2026)0995	Summary

Technical information

Procedure reference	2026/0273(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Directive
Amendments and repeals	Amending Directive 2005/36/EC 2002/0061(COD) Amending Regulation (EU) No 1024/2012 2011/0226(COD)
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 58 Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 053-p1 Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 046 Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 062
Mandatory consultation of other institutions	European Economic and Social Committee
Stage reached in procedure	Preparatory phase in Parliament

Documentation gateway

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(2026)0995	15/09/2026	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	SEC(2026)0995	15/09/2026	
Document attached to the procedure	SWD(2026)0995	15/09/2026	
Document attached to the procedure	SWD(2026)0996	15/09/2026	
Document attached to the procedure	SWD(2026)0997	15/09/2026	

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Digitalisation of procedures for the recognition of professional qualifications

2026/0273(COD) - 15/09/2026 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: to modernise and digitalise procedures for the recognition of professional qualifications within the EU and to establish a more consistent framework for the recognition of qualifications obtained in third countries.

PROPOSED ACT: Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: the European Parliament decides in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure and on an equal footing with the Council.

BACKGROUND: the Single Market's full potential depends on enabling professionals to move freely across the Union. Facilitating mobility helps address labour and skills shortages and strengthens economic resilience. Remaining barriers to professional mobility, particularly in regulated professions where national qualification requirements differ, should therefore be reduced.

This proposal forms part of the **Skills Portability Initiative** (SPI), which is a key component of the **Fair Labour Mobility Package** (FLMP). The skills portability initiative will modernise procedures for recognising professional qualifications in the single market.

By amending Directive 2005/36/EC (Professional Qualifications Directive), this proposal aims to reduce paperwork, shorten processing times and improve the accountability of administrations, lower fees, improve the information provided to citizens, and strengthen administrative cooperation between national authorities.

The new legal framework will make recognition more **transparent and digital**. It will also cover EU citizens who obtained qualifications outside of the EU.

CONTENT: the proposal amends both Directive 2005/36/EC and Regulation (EU) No 1024/2012 on administrative cooperation through the Internal Market Information System (the IMI Regulation).

The proposal:

- replaces the existing European Professional Card framework with a **European Digital Recognition Solution**. While recognition decisions remain the responsibility of Member States, the entire administrative workflow will be carried out through a **common digital infrastructure** used by all competent authorities;

- introduces **deadlines** for each key procedural step, creating a **structured workflow** from the submission of an application to the final recognition decision. For temporary and occasional provision of services, the proposal similarly shortens the duration of prior checks. To reinforce compliance, the new proposal introduces a **financial compensation mechanism** for applicants affected by excessive delays in the administrative handling of their recognition applications;

- further **harmonises the procedural framework** by clarifying that competent authorities may request only the documents expressly provided for by the Directive. Member States should accept those documents in **any official language** of the Union. A new article introduces common principles governing **recognition fees**. Together, these measures reduce unnecessary administrative burdens, improve legal certainty and promote more consistent application of the Directive;

- modernises the **notification framework** requiring Member States to submit notifications concerning regulated professions through the Internal Market Information System. It also strengthens the Commission's role in monitoring the implementation of the Directive, enabling reporting to rely on statistical information generated by the European Digital Recognition Solution and thereby improving the quality, comparability and availability of implementation data;

- introduces a **more structured governance framework**, strengthening cooperation between the Commission and the Member States within the **Group of Coordinators** on the Recognition of Professional Qualifications. Annual work programmes will provide a clearer framework for monitoring implementation, identifying common challenges, exchanging good practices and preparing future developments of the recognition system. The strengthened governance framework is also intended to facilitate and streamline the use of the Directive's delegated powers, in particular with regard to the establishment of **Common Training Frameworks**;

- establishes a framework for the recognition of third-country qualifications held by third-country nationals. The existing provisions are replaced by new rules on recognition of qualifications obtained outside the Union.

Budgetary implications

The proposal has budgetary implications for the Union budget related to the development, deployment and operation of the European Digital Recognition Solution, which will be developed, financed and operated by the Commission, within three years after entry into force of this Directive.

For 2027, the resource of the deployment of the system will come from EaSI. The source of financing and scope of Union financial commitment in the post-2027 period remain subject to the outcome of interinstitutional negotiations on the MFF 2028-2034 and thereafter shall be determined through the annual budgetary procedure.