

# **CEPLIS TELEGRAM**



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- **German Government simplifies the recognition of professional qualifications**
- **New Single Market Emergency Instrument**
- **European Policy Center calls for a more ambitious European Care Strategy**
- **Closing event of the “Week of the Liberal Professions” organised by UNPLIB with the collaboration of CEPLIS**
- **European Commission calls on Member States to modernise their minimum income schemes**
- **Entrepreneurship down 7.2% in the first half of 2022**

## German Government simplifies the recognition of professional qualifications

In the aftermath of the “Skilled worker’s summit” held in Berlin on the 7<sup>th</sup> of September, the **German government decided to facilitate its immigration system following the growing labor shortage**. According to the Minister of Economy and Climate, **Robert Habeck**, the country is “*on the lookout for people who fancy coming to Germany to bring in their skills, expertise and passions*”.

**The state is specifically looking to attract skilled craftspeople, electrical engineers, IT specialists, careers, nurses, catering and hospitality professionals, from all over the world**. Mr. Habeck highlighted the country’s good working conditions, high pay, training opportunities, high quality of life, affordable education and democratic leadership as reasons to consider moving there.

Within this context, **Germany wishes to remove bureaucratic hurdles for skilled migrant workers and plans for a new points-based visa system that could make it easier for such workers to relocate to the country**. The application process shall be simplified with the objective to reduce the amount of time someone has to live in the country before applying for citizenship.

By simplifying the recognition of professional qualifications and making visa and citizenship processes easier to navigate, Germany hopes to attract and retain a robust foreign workforce.

You may find more information [here](#).



Pool photo by Roberto Pfeil/Getty Images

## New Single Market Emergency Instrument

The 19<sup>th</sup> of September, the European Commission presented the **New Single Market Emergency Instrument (SMEI)**, aiming to preserve the free movement of goods, services and persons and the **availability of essential goods and services in the event of future emergencies**. The New Instrument is developed in order to avoid unilateral measures that in the past caused fragmentation and affected SMEs during the pandemic crisis.

The Single Market Emergency Instrument complements other EU legislative measures for crisis management like the **Union Civil Protection Mechanism**, as well as EU rules for specific sectors.

**It aims to establish a well-balanced crisis management framework**

**to identify different threats to the Single Market and ensure its smooth functioning.**



**Executive-Vice President for a Europe Fit for the Digital Age, Margrethe Vestager**, said: *“The COVID-19 crisis made it clear: we must make our Single Market operational at all times, including in times of crisis. The new Single Market Emergency Instrument makes it possible.”*

**Commissioner for the Internal Market, Thierry Breton**, added: *“The Single Market Emergency Instrument will provide a structural answer to preserve the free movement of goods, people and services in adverse times. **The SMEI will ensure better coordination with Member States, help prevent and limit the impact of a potential crisis on our industry and economy, and equip Europe with tools that our global partners have and that we lack.**”*

The proposals will now be discussed by the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union. After adoption by the co-legislators, the Regulations will enter into force on the twentieth day following their publication in the Official Journal of the European Union.

You may read the full press release [here](#).

## European Policy Center calls for a more ambitious European Care Strategy

The 21<sup>st</sup> of September, the **European Policy Center (EPC)**, an independent think tank, **published an article arguing for a more ambitious European Care Strategy.**



EPC welcomes the **European Care Strategy** launched by the European Commission on the 7<sup>th</sup> of September **as a step towards improving the circumstances of caregivers and receivers. At the same time the think tank raises doubts about the effectiveness of the Strategy.** The latter has the objective to ensure a high-quality, affordable and accessible care to European Union citizens, but **may be overlooked by the policymakers, as the Health and Social care sectors are often considered as being under the subsidiary principle without clear EU competences.**

EPC insists **that ensuring the provision of care is vital, as the European Union is facing an ageing population, and the number of EU citizens in need of long-term care will increase from 19.5 million in 2016 to 23.6 million in 2030 and 30.5 million in 2050. The ambition of the Strategy to improve the working conditions and work-life balance of caregivers, and address gender inequalities attributed to care work is essential, as the profession is one of the most undervalued and underpaid, and is often associated with precarious working conditions.** This is even truer in rural areas in the EU, where the infrastructure for long-term care services and childhood education is often lacking.

While the recommendations in relation to the adequacy, availability and accessibility of long-term care services are welcomed, specific targets like those for childcare could be more effective and impactful according to the EPC. Targets are necessary to ensure the functioning of the labour market and, thus, the economy. **If Member States fail to improve access to care drastically, the impacts of an ageing population could mean that more individuals, most likely women, will have to exit the labour market or reduce working hours to perform unpaid care work.** This would have negative implications for the labour market dependency ratio and hurt the economy.

**In conclusion, the Care Strategy is seen as a step in the right direction, but the EPC is asking for more regarding the post-COVID-19 crisis difficulties, the state of the Health and Social Care sectors, and the ageing population within the European Union.**

You may read the article [here](#).

## Closing event of the “Week of the Liberal Professions” organised by UNPLIB with the collaboration of CEPLIS

As you know the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September is celebrated in many countries as the World Day of the Liberal Professions. At this occasion CEPLIS issues a press release calling for a better protection of our professionals in times of crisis and for a better recognition of their work, their expertise, and their role in society, throughout the European Union and internationally. In that press release we have put emphasis on the fact that “going through the last very difficult years, citizens all over the world were able to count on professionals dedicated to their service; on persons who weathered the fear of sickness, the dreads of the war, the lack of infrastructure, the tough economic conditions, in order to do their duty, to offer advice, to alleviate pain, to build dreams, to facilitate complicated issues and give peace of mind to many.”



During the week of the 23/09, our Belgian colleagues of the National Union of the Liberal Professions (UNPLIB) organised several events addressing the need for improvements in legislation aiming at helping young Liberal Professional to develop their businesses despite these difficult times of economic and energetic uncertainties.

The closing event of this special week was organised in collaboration with CEPLIS. Several experts addressed the participants at this occasion, notably Belgian Ministers responsible for digitalization and education, but also academics, Liberal Professionals, and other representatives of the sectors.

Among the speakers were Professor Dr. Baudouin Decharneux, Academician, Philosopher and Professor at the “Université Libre de Bruxelles” (ULB), who presented the evolution of the Liberal Professional throughout the years and argued about the value of liberty in the sector;

Mr. Eric Thiry, President of the World Union of the Liberal Professions (UMPL), who shared his concerns about the economic difficulties faced by different professions. Mr. Thiry also discussed artificial Intelligence and its consequences for our sector, and addressed the importance of a safe environment for the patient and customer of the Liberal Professionals.

Mr. Jacques Gloriaux, EESC member, who presented the significant work of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) concerning our professions,

The meeting was the occasion to share visions and concerns of the sector and the improvement that should and could be made in the near future. One of the main issues identified was the growing privatization of the Health Sector and its disastrous consequences for the patients, but also the reluctance of young professionals to work as a self-employed/ liberal professionals given the lack of stability and the impact on their private life that this choice might represent.

You may read CEPLIS full statement for the World Day of the Liberal Professions [here](#).

For further information on the event of UNPLIB please contact our Secretariat.

## European Commission calls on Member States to modernise their minimum income schemes

The 28<sup>th</sup> of September, and **within the context of the ongoing pledge to reduce poverty and social exclusion in Europe, the European Commission called on Member States to modernise their minimum income schemes.**

With the objective to ensure active inclusion, the European Commission wishes to set out how Member States can modernise their minimum income schemes to make them more effective, lifting people out of poverty, while promoting the labour market integration of those who can work.



To this end, it is essential to offer clear **guidance to Member States on how to ensure that their minimum income schemes are effective in fighting poverty and promoting active inclusion in society and labour markets.**

Member States are therefore recommended to:

- improve the adequacy of income support
- improve the coverage and take-up of minimum income
- improve access to inclusive labour markets
- improve access to enabling and essential services
- promote individualised support
- increase the effectiveness of governance of social safety nets at EU, national, regional and local level, as well as monitoring and reporting mechanisms

**The European Commission proposal for a Council Recommendation on adequate minimum income will be discussed by Member States with a view to adoption by the Council. Once adopted, Member States should report to the European Commission every three years on their progress on implementation.**

You may find more information about the proposed Council Recommendation [here](#).

## Entrepreneurship down 7.2% in the first half of 2022

The 4<sup>th</sup> of October, the well-known Belgian newspaper *Le Soir* published an article addressing the **significant decrease of the numbers of enterprises created in the first half of 2022**. According to the newspaper, after an exceptional "post-COVID-19" rebound in 2021, the number of business start-ups is stalling as it decreased by 7.2%.

Within this context there are legitimate fears that **the situation might worsen given the current energy crisis European Union has to face and the difficult winter ahead**. SMEs may well unfortunately suffer from this lack of energy security, and in addition to this concern, the increase of the energy costs will certainly allow less EU citizens to benefit from the service and advice of Liberal Professionals.

The European Union discussed the energy crisis on the 7<sup>th</sup> of October at the occasion of an informal meeting between the Heads of States and government. The meeting in question focused on three areas that were deemed essential for tackling the energy crisis: reducing electricity demand, enhancing security of supplies, and guaranteeing affordable prices for households and businesses.

However, Member States remain divided over what to do next, with many calling for a European Union-wide cap on gas prices, but others, including Europe's economic powerhouse Germany, opposed.

You may find read the full article [here](#) and find more information about the coming meeting of EU leaders [here](#).