

Brussels 16th October 2019

TO: Mrs Niki Kerameus,
Greek Minister of Education and Religious Affairs

NOTIFICATION: EU Health Commissioner
Kyriakos Mitsotakis, Prime Minister of Greece
Vassilis Digalakis, Deputy Minister of Education

URGENT

Proposed amendments to the regulation on the recognition of professional qualifications (Directive 36/2005), in the Hellenic Parliament

Dear Ministers

We are informed by the PSF (Panhellenic Association of Physiotherapists) that an article (169) has been introduced, as part of a bill of the Ministry of Development, for debate in the Parliament, which amends the procedures for the recognition of professional qualifications of citizens of the countries laid down in the European Directive (36/2005).

While Article 169 of this Bill refers to the modification of the procedures for the recognition of the qualifications of EU Citizens, it also states that from now on, **professional qualifications from third countries (non-EU) can also be recognized**.

It also reintroduces the professional qualifications equivalence recognition procedure, namely the recognition of direct professional qualifications without the necessary requirement for a license to practice a profession (we refer to the Regulated profession of physiotherapist).

The European Region of the World Confederation for Physical Therapy is deeply concerned about these new developments that are being put to the vote in the Hellenic Parliament, which if voted will affect all European Union countries, as those who acquire a right to a regulated profession will be able to move to any EU country.

We believe that this is jeopardizing the **EU's Public Health** and we therefore ask for:

1) The withdrawal, from this provision, of the option to recognize professional qualifications from third countries outside the EU, as this provision is outside the philosophy and scope of the regulations of the European Directive 36/2005

2) The clear wording, in this provision, that the equivalence of professional qualifications cannot be applied to Regulated Health Professions such as that of the Physical Therapist.

We are sending this letter to the EU Health Commissioner and the Prime Minister of Greece asking their intervention.

Yours sincerely



David Gorriá

General Secretary of the European Region of the World Confederation for Physiotherapy

*The **European Region of the WCPT** is a non-profit, non-governmental organisation that represents the physiotherapy profession at European Level. The Organisation has a membership of 39 Physiotherapy Associations, one from each of the European countries, including all the EU Member States, EEA countries and all the EU applicant countries, representing physiotherapists in Europe*