

EN  
E-002678/2022  
Answer given by Mr Breton  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(28.9.2022)

The delivery and organisation of healthcare falls within the remit of Member States. The Commission supports Member States' efforts to reduce the burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in line with their commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. In June 2022, the Commission presented the Healthier together - EU non-communicable diseases initiative on reducing the burden of NCDs<sup>1</sup>. In parallel, the Steering Group on Health Promotion, Disease Prevention and Management of Non-communicable Diseases advises in the selection of best practices that could be scaled up at European level<sup>2</sup>. In this context, Member States can suggest if they prioritise action to reinforce oral health.

Similarly, the competence to reserve access to a profession to holders of certain professional qualifications belongs to Member States. European standards of competences, knowledge and skills can guarantee a certain level of expertise, but do not necessarily lead to the education being organised at the same level. However, in case the current regulatory situation undermines patient safety, a standard could remediate this.

Any profession meeting the requirements of Article 49a of Directive 2005/36/EC<sup>3</sup>, for which a Common Training Framework (CTF) could lessen existing barriers in the Single Market, is an interesting candidate for the establishment of a CTF, after a due consultation process with Member States and stakeholders. However, the purpose of a CTF is not to fully harmonise the regulation or education leading to a profession, but to define a minimum level of knowledge, skills, and competences in order to facilitate mobility for establishment purposes.

---

<sup>1</sup> [https://health.ec.europa.eu/publications/eu-non-communicable-diseases-ncds-initiative-guidance-document\\_en](https://health.ec.europa.eu/publications/eu-non-communicable-diseases-ncds-initiative-guidance-document_en)

<sup>2</sup> [https://health.ec.europa.eu/non-communicable-diseases/steering-group\\_en](https://health.ec.europa.eu/non-communicable-diseases/steering-group_en)

<sup>3</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/LSU/?uri=CELEX:32005L0036>