



## **FEANI Statement**

### **European Parliament Hearing on the Recognition of Professional Qualifications**

**1<sup>st</sup> October, 2002**

#### **1. Impact of the Commission's proposal on the Engineering Profession**

FEANI (European Federation of National Engineering Associations) is a federation of professional engineering associations from 27 countries in Europe. It was founded 51 years ago and represents the interests of up to 2,000,000 active professional engineers.

FEANI welcomes the steps taken by the EU Commission to simplify and consolidate into one framework all the earlier General and Specific Directives for mobility of professionals.

FEANI supports the overall objective of this initiative, namely to contribute to the mobility of the work forces in Europe and the facility for mutual recognition of qualifications. FEANI has also included since many years in its objectives the free mobility of engineers through mutual recognition of engineering qualification by creating the EUR ING system (Terms of references and Index of engineering schools), which is actually a European platform in the sense of Article 15.

FEANI accepts that in the process of consolidation, certain elements within previous directives have to be retained. However, FEANI sees problems in different topics of this draft Directive which have impacts on the profession of engineers.

The major impact comes from Article 13.1(b) because only professionals of level 4 and 5 are accepted by FEANI as engineers. Thus, an elevation from level 3 to level 4 is not accepted.

FEANI believes that if the provision in Article 13.1(b) applies as above certainly will create very dangerous problems:

- ❖ Public safety and consumer protection will be seriously reduced, particularly in many areas of engineering and complex technologies
- ❖ The technological potential and standards of our economies will be weakened instead of necessary enhancement
- ❖ Resident professionals will be discriminated because they will be at a disadvantage to those coming from outside the host country



## **2. Proposal for a Section for Engineers in the Directive and an Annex**

Taking into consideration that engineers are one of the largest professional populations and the distinctive nature of their profession, FEANI believes it is justified to include in the proposed Directive a new Section dealing with the engineering profession. It has to establish the competences and educational, training and professional experience requirements all European engineers should have, in order to favour mobility and the professional practice of engineers in Europe.

As a federation of national engineering associations, including those of the new candidate countries to EU, FEANI has developed over the last decades a good understanding of the different engineering formation frameworks of its members and considers it can contribute significantly to the definition of this Section. Furthermore, FEANI has been recognized by the Commission in 1994 as being an excellent example of self-regulation of a profession at European level and a model for other professional groups.

FEANI declares its readiness and eagerness to assist all Community bodies in the preparation of a Section in the Directive for Engineers and an Annex with the relevant qualifications.