



Conseil national

Paris, le 16 janvier 2013

Mr. Ignacio MEZQUITA
Director General for economic policy
Ministry of Economy and
competitiveness
Paseo de la Castellana, 162 – 22nd floor
Office 2203
28071 Madrid
Spain

Dear Sir,

We have just been informed by the Consejo Superior de Colegios de Arquitectos d'España that your Ministry intends to extend recourse to an architect for the design of residences and other buildings to engineers irrespective of their area of specialization

On behalf of the Ordre des Architectes Français, it seems necessary to warn you of the serious consequences of such a decision on the living environment of your fellow countrymen.

The European Directive 2005/36 (Recital 27) stipulates, "Architectural design, the quality of buildings, their harmonious incorporation into their surroundings, respect for natural and urban landscapes and for the public and private heritage are a matter of public interest".

In this context, the architect whose appointment includes the design and construction of a building and its insertion in the environment, participates in the conservation of the urban environment and cultural heritage

In all Member States of the European Union, the architectural profession is also a regulated profession in compliance with the definition given in the Directive for the recognition of qualifications (Recital 43), namely a profession "...practised on the basis of relevant professional qualifications in a personal, responsible and professionally independent capacity by those providing intellectual and conceptual services in the interest of the client and the public".

This regulation is intended to guarantee the independence of architects and is in interest of the client, consumer protection, public health and safety, environmental protection and the protection of cultural policy objectives.

Indeed, the discipline of cultural creation and innovation, architecture has an important impact on the cultural dimension of cities. The architect alone combines the three essential conditions to correctly undertake a construction project commission; the technical

Tour Maine Montparnasse
33 avenue du Maine
BP 154
75755 Paris cedex 15

Tel. +33(0) 1 56 58 67 00
Fax +33(0) 1 56 58 67 01

www.architectes.org



Conseil national

competence, as holder of a degree or qualification recognized by the State; competence in urban planning legislation; and he/she is solvent, an essential condition to assume the professional liability that ensues from the performance of services for the construction of all buildings that should respond to the strict aesthetic, technical standards and public safety in order to procure sufficiently adequate buildings that assure the public safety of persons.

Moreover, I should add that the latest consultation text of the European Union Council on the revision of the Directive on the recognition of professional qualifications dated 13th December 2012 excludes temporary access to regulated occupations.

For all the afore going reasons, I would strongly advise you to abandon this initiative which would be disastrous not only for our profession but also for the citizens of your country.

Yours sincerely,

The President

Lionel CARLI

Tour Maine Montparnasse
33 avenue du Maine
BP 154
75755 Paris cedex 15

Tel. +33(0) 1 56 58 67 00
Fax +33(0) 1 56 58 67 01

www.architectes.org