



Recent public consultations launched by the European Commission

Dear President,
Dear Board members,
Dear ADDE members,

The European Commission (“**Commission**”) recently opened public consultations in different domains which could be relevant for the business of dental dealers.

Please find below an overview:

➤ Public stakeholder consultation on next phase of EU-US cooperation in eHealth/Health IT

eHealth refers to information and communication technology for health and well-being. The Commission adopted an eHealth Action Plan 2012-2020 in which it describes the actions foreseen on this topic.

In December 2010, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Cooperation surrounding eHealth/Health IT was signed between the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Commission’s Directorate-General Communications Networks, Content & Technology (“**DG CONNECT**”). The MoU was signed to demonstrate a shared dedication to strengthen transatlantic cooperation in eHealth and Health Information Technologies. In the spring of 2013, DG CONNECT and HHS published a first Roadmap of specific MoU actions including two priority areas: (i) standards development to advance the development and use of internationally recognized standards supporting transnational interoperability of electronic health information and communication technology and (ii) workforce development to develop and expand the skilled Health IT workforce in Europe and the US.

End of 2015, it was agreed between DG CONNECT and the US HHS to add “Transatlantic eHealth/Health IT Innovation Ecosystems” as a new priority area to the Roadmap. This addition aims to encourage innovation in the eHealth/Health IT industry and ensures linkages to the other two Roadmap work streams.

The objective of the consultation is to gather comments and inputs which will be used to finalise this addition to the Roadmap (as a whole) and to validate it.

Views are sought from Member States’ authorities, businesses, academia, organisations involved in eHealth, health professionals and any other interested stakeholders.

There are three possible ways for giving feedback:

1. Completing an online questionnaire (see, https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/EU_US_Survey_eHealth_HealthIT)
2. By sending an e-mail with a Word, PDF or ODF document to CNECT-ehealth@ec.europa.eu

3. By a letter to

European Commission,
DG Communication Networks, Content & Technology / Unit H1,
Avenue de Beaulieu 25, 01/122
B-1049 Brussels

The consultation remains open until 15 March 2016. More detailed information on the consultation can be found [here](#).

➤ **Public consultation on an employer's obligation to inform employees of the conditions applicable to the contract or employment relationship (the Written Statement Directive)**

The Written Statement Directive (the “**Directive**”) gives employees the right to be notified in writing of the essential aspects of their employment relationship when it starts or shortly thereafter. The Directive has a social goal, namely to improve the protection of employees by providing them sufficient information on their rights. The Directive was never properly evaluated since its adoption in 1991. Its evaluation is furthermore justified by the fundamental changes that have occurred on the labour market where the variety of employment relationships has increased. New forms of employment have appeared or developed (e.g. telework, ICT-based mobile work, Collaborative models of employment...).

These new forms of employment present a challenge for the application of the Directive. The definition of what is an employee varies significantly among Member States. Uncertainty about the exact categories of beneficiaries covered by the Directive is therefore becoming very critical today. The Commission would like to know if the lack of uniformity among Member States causes any issues and asks questions as to whether it would be wise to explicitly confirm in the Directive that also people working under certain new forms of employment are covered.

Views are sought from all citizens and organisations. Contributions from employees, employees' organisations or employees' representatives, employers, employers' organisations and public authorities are especially sought.

- Feedback can be given via the online questionnaire (see, <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/bdc30ce4-65a3-b88f-1979-37570483d7ba>).
- The consultation is open until 20 April 2016. More detailed information can be found [here](#).

➤ **Public consultation on a renewed Modernisation Agenda for Higher Education in the European Union**

The "Agenda for the modernisation of Europe's higher education systems" sets out the EU's priorities in the area of higher education. The Commission is currently reviewing this agenda to ensure that what it does is as useful as possible.

As part of this review, the Commission launched a consultation. The objective of the consultation is to collect the views of stakeholders about the current situation in Europe's higher education systems, as well as on priorities for change. The questionnaire focuses on:

1. The current strengths and weaknesses of higher education in the EU;
 2. The priority areas where those in charge of higher education should focus their attention
- and;
3. How you think the EU should support efforts to improve higher education.

All stakeholders and individuals are welcome to contribute to this consultation. Contributions are particularly sought from stakeholders interested in or affected by policies in the field of higher education, including social partner organisations representing employers and workers or relevant associations.

Feedback can be given via the online questionnaire (see, <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/EU-modernisation-agenda-review>).

The consultation is open until 29 February 2016. More detailed information can be found [here](#).

We hope this information is useful to you.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any further questions.

Best regards,
Sarah