

**Question for written answer E-007938/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Pervenche Berès (S&D)

Subject: Practising as a lawyer in the EU

The freedom of establishment enshrined in EU law has made the legal profession an international one, and the EU has always sought to make it easier for people to pursue professions in the Union. Some Member States are more reluctant than others to apply this principle underpinning the internal market. Even though the United Kingdom is currently negotiating its exit from the EU, positive European law is still strictly applicable there.

In that connection, Article 3(2) of Directive 98/5/EC states that any lawyer can be registered as a European Lawyer if they provide proof of their registration with their home bar association to the bar in the host country.

In spite of this, the London Bar Council requires any candidate wishing to register as a European Lawyer to train for three years with a 'qualified person', i.e. an experienced barrister.

Given the lack of a clear legal basis for this condition, could the Commission say whether the rule requiring candidates to be supervised by an experienced barrister for a period of three years is compatible with the aforementioned directive?