



Northern Ireland  
Assembly

## Research and Information Service Briefing Paper

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NIAR 510-14

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# European Commission Legislative, Non Legislative & Status Unknown Proposals Q3 2014



## Research and Information Service

**Table 1: European Commission Legislative Proposals 2014 Q3**

**NIAR 510-2014**

Title	Estimated date of Adoption	Current stage of progress	Type of Initiative	Description	Perceived Relevance to Northern Ireland	Current Prioritisation	Indicative date of when Committee can become involved	Any Identified Subsidiarity Issues?	NI Executive Priority/Objective (2013/14 priorities)
Proposal for a recast* Regulation (EEC) NO 337/75 of the council of 10 February 1975 establishing a European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP).	4th Quarter 2014	No information has been found regarding the proposal including a search of Prelex and the Register of Commission Documents which suggests that work is still underway.	Legislative	CEDEFOP provides information on and analysis of vocational education and training systems, policies and practice. In line with the Common approach on decentralised agencies membership of CEDEFOP's governing board should be reviewed and streamlined. Other aspects of the governance of this agency could also be reviewed on this occasion. Such changes require a recast of the founding regulation of the agency.	CEDEFOP mainly provides advice and analysis on vocational education in Europe. Whilst this information is useful, the recast of the Regulation should not have any impact on Northern Ireland as it is focused on the governance of CEDEFOP rather its function.	Low	The proposal appears to be still in development.	No identified issues at this stage. However this may be subject to change.	<b>Competitiveness and Employment:</b> Increase the skills profile of the working population; prepare for and influence EU Decision making processes in respect of the 2014-2020 structural funds programmes, the Trans-European Networks and the Connecting Europe Facility.
Proposal for a EP and Council Regulation No 1365/75 on the creation of a European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions.	3rd Quarter 2014	No information has been found regarding the proposal including a search of Prelex and the Register of Commission Documents which suggests that work is still underway.	Legislative	To revise the founding regulation for the agency in order to take account of the conclusions and recommendations of the Inter-institutional Working Group on Agencies (IWGA) - composition of the Governing Board, nomination of Director.	The European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Eurofound) is a tripartite European Union Agency, whose role is to provide knowledge in the area of social and work-related policies. The IWGA was established to assess the effectiveness, accountability and transparency of decentralised agencies. The proposal would bring Eurofound into line with IWGA recommendations. As such, this would have limited impact on Northern Ireland.	Low	The proposal appears to be still in development.	No identified issues at this stage. However this may be subject to change.	<b>Competitiveness and Employment:</b> Increase the skills profile of the working population; prepare for and influence EU Decision making processes in respect of the 2014-2020 structural funds programmes, the Trans-European Networks and the Connecting Europe Facility.

\* A Recast Directive is similar to codification in that it brings together a number of legislative acts into a single act. However, a Recast Directive involves substantial changes to the original Act or Acts, with amendments made to the Directive as part of the process.



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**Table 2: European Commission Non-Legislative Proposals 2014 Q3**

**NIAR 510-2014**

Title	Estimated date of Adoption	Current stage of progress	Type of Initiative	Description	Perceived Relevance to Northern Ireland	Prioritisation	Indicative date of when Committee can become involved/potential actions	Any Identified Subsidiarity Issues?	NI Executive European Priority/Objective (2013/14 priorities)
First stage consultation on possible consolidation of Information and Consultation Directives (REFIT). Previously known as: Recast* and merger of three Directives in the area of information and consultation of workers.	September 2014	No information has been found regarding the proposal including a search of Prelex and the Register of Commission Documents which suggests that work is still underway. SWD 'Fitness Check' completed in July 2013 (SWD 2013 293).	Consultation	Recast and merger of three Directives further to a fitness check published in July 2013 in order to address some of the issues raised by the Commission SWD (and improve the operation of the Directives). This initiative is subject to a consultation of social partners. The three Directives are: <input type="checkbox"/> Directive 98/59/EC on collective redundancies; <input type="checkbox"/> Directive 2001/23/EC on transfers of undertakings; and <input type="checkbox"/> Directive 2002/14/EC establishing a general framework relating to information and consultation of workers in the EC.	The SWD identified a number of gaps in the existing legislation, including the exclusion of seafarers, smaller enterprises and public administration from the scope of the Directives. As NI has a large public sector and the majority of its private sector businesses are SMEs, changes to this legislation may have a significant impact for both employees and employers. No information was found on what approach the Recast will take in regards this.	Medium (this may change due to what scope the Recasting takes)	The Communication appears to be still in development.	No identified issues at this stage. However this may be subject to change.	None related.
Adoption of the partnership agreements for the European Structural and Investment Funds for the period 2014-2020.	September 2014 - To date 16 of the EU28 have had their PA's adopted by the EU Commission. The UK PA has yet to be adopted.	No information has been found regarding the proposal including a search of Prelex and the Register of Commission Documents which suggests that work is still underway.	Adoption of partnership agreements	Partnership Agreements will shape the priorities in Member States for public investment for the next seven years.	This proposal could have a long term impact on Northern Ireland. As such the Committee may wish to ask the Department for information on what is happening in regards the CSF and the ESIF.	High	The Communication appears to be still in development. RaISe will keep a watching brief and provide updates to CEL.	No identified issues at this stage. However this may be subject to change.	<b>Competitiveness and Employment:</b> Increase the skills profile of the working population; prepare for and influence EU Decision making processes in respect of the 2014-2020 structural funds programmes, the Trans-European Networks and the Connecting Europe Facility.
Commission Implementing Regulation on the introduction of a European Professional Card for particular professions.	December 2014	No information has been found regarding the proposal including a search of Prelex and the Register of Commission Documents which suggests that work is still underway.	Implementation of Regulation	The implementing act will introduce the European Professional Card for those professions who at this stage fulfil the introduction criteria set out in Directive 2005/36/EC. The European Professional Card will facilitate recognition of professional qualifications, reduce administrative burden and costs both for professionals and competent authorities of the Member States.	This initiative will increase mobility for professionals wishing to work in other EU Countries. As such it will only impact on a relatively small portion of the NI population. It will also facilitate mobility for professionals wishing to work in NI. However, it should be noted that only the following professions are currently included: nurses, doctors, pharmacists, physiotherapists, engineers, mountain guides & estate agents. More Professions may be added with time.	Low	This Communication appears to be still in development.	No identified issues at this stage. However this may be subject to change.	<b>Competitiveness and Employment:</b> Increase the skills profile of the working population; prepare for and influence EU Decision making processes in respect of the 2014-2020 structural funds programmes, the Trans-European Networks and the Connecting Europe Facility.

Title	Estimated date of Adoption	Current stage of progress	Type of Initiative	Description	Perceived Relevance to Northern Ireland	Prioritisation	Indicative date of when Committee can become involved/potential actions	Any Identified Subsidiarity Issues?	NI Executive European Priority/Objective (2013/14 priorities)
Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on the implementation of the ECVET Recommendation.	September 2014	No information has been found regarding the proposal including a search of Prelex and the Register of Commission Documents which suggests that work is still underway.	Report	Commission report on the European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training (ECVET) including its relevance, the effectiveness of its implementation and its governance.	The impact of the report will depend on its findings and recommendations. Depending on the Recommendations there may be a further review and adaptation of technical specifications on ECVET.	Low (however, this may change as a result of the findings of the report).	Report expected in September 2014. ECVET Recommendation (2009/C 155/02) commits The Commission to monitor and evaluate the implementation of ECVET and report by 18 June 2014 to the European Parliament and the Council, on the experience gained and the implications for the future, including if necessary a review of the legal instrument.	No identified issues at this stage. However this may be subject to change.	<b>Competitiveness and Employment:</b> Increase the skills profile of the working population.



### Research and Information Service

**Table 3: European Commission Legislative Proposals - Status Unknown 2014 Q3 NIAR 510-2014**

Title	Estimated date of Adoption	Current stage of progress	Type of Initiative	Description	Perceived Relevance to Northern Ireland	Current Prioritisation	Indicative date of when Committee can become involved	Any Identified Subsidiarity Issues?	NI Executive Priority/Objective (2013/14 priorities)
First revision of Regulation 883/2004 and Regulation 987/2009 - the package contains: Coordination of social security systems; Revision of Regulation 883/2004 and Regulation 987/2009; and Communication on highly mobile worker).	June 2014	No information has been found regarding the proposal including a search of Prelex and the Register of Commission Documents which suggests that work is still underway. However, the EU Commission's Forward Programme Document does not include the initiative nor does its Execution Report.	<b>Legislative</b>	This initiative is linked to the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy which calls for the EU to encourage mobility and for European citizens to make more use of their freedom of movement.	The initiative could contribute to promoting and facilitating the free movement of persons within the EU by updating the rules on the coordination of social security schemes within the European Union. It should be noted that the UK Government has expressed reservations regarding this package, in specific regard of long term care and the extension of the export of benefits beyond 3 months. As stated in a recent publication on the 2014 CWP: <i>The Government would be concerned about changes that mean we would have to pay more benefits than we do now.</i>	Low to medium (However, this may be subject to change as more information becomes available).	The Communication appears to be still in development.	No identified issues at this stage. However this may be subject to change.	<b>Competitiveness and Employment:</b> Promote and facilitate mobility.
First revision of Regulation 883/2004 and Regulation 987/2009: Chapeau Communication on mobility - Mobility package.	June 2014	No information has been found regarding the proposal including a search of Prelex and the Register of Commission Documents which suggests that work is still underway. However, the EU Commission's Forward Programme Document does not include the initiative nor does its Execution Report.	<b>Non - Legislative</b>	Aim is to present the achievements to enhance cross-border mobility in various fields including labour law and active labour market policy.	Enhanced cross-border mobility may be of benefit to Northern Ireland's economy and population in terms of skills exchanges, skill development and increased accessibility and attractiveness as a business location.	Low - Medium, although this may be prone to change as further information becomes available.	This process is currently ongoing.	No identified issues at this stage. However this may be subject to change.	<b>Competitiveness and Employment:</b> Increase the skills profile of the working population; Promote and facilitate mobility.
Commission Report on the evaluation of the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP).	July 2014	No information has been found regarding the proposal including a search of Prelex and the Register of Commission Documents which suggests that work is still underway. However, the EU Commission's Forward Programme Document does not include the initiative nor does its Execution Report.	<b>Non-Legislative Report</b>	Evaluation addresses the activities of the CEDEFOP and focuses on its relevance, coherence, effectiveness, impact and added value as an organisation and its cost effectiveness of its operation.	This is an evaluation of an EU body and as such there will be limited, if any, impact on Northern Ireland	Low	Report expected in July 2014	No identified issues at this stage. However this may be subject to change.	<b>Competitiveness and Employment:</b> Increase the skills profile of the working population; prepare for and influence EU Decision making processes in respect of the 2014-2020 structural funds programmes, the Trans-European Networks and the Connecting Europe Facility.