

# Wilfried Boomgaert

## EQF Advisory Group

### Presentation:

International (Sector) Qualifications and EQF



THE RELEVANCE OF THE ACTIVE LEISURE  
SECTOR & INTERNATIONAL QUALIFICATION  
FRAMEWORK TO THE EQF (SIQAF)

  
**europe active**  
MORE PEOPLE | MORE ACTIVE | MORE OFTEN

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# International (Sector) Qualifications and EQF

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# Who am I ?

- ▶ Working in the Ministry of Education and Training in Belgium (Flanders) since 1987
- ▶ Focus on enhancing the cooperation between Education & Training and Work in Belgium (Flanders) and in the EU since 2005
- ▶ Member of the EQF Advisory Group since 2008
- ▶ Former Chair of the EQF AG sub-group on International Sectoral Qualifications (2014-2015)
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# A direct formal linking of international qualifications to EQF ?

- ▶ Is not possible
- ▶ Only National Qualifications Frameworks or Systems can be formally “referenced” to the EQF and this on the basis of 10 criteria now taken up in Annex III of EQF Recommendation 2017
- ▶ Individual national or international (sector) qualifications are not linked to EQF as EQF is a ‘meta-tool’ ; EQF is not a tool for levelling of occupations
- ▶ Consequently, international (sector) qualifications should be formally linked to the EQF via their link to National



# Legal basis for national or EU bodies responsible for qualifications

- ▶ There is only a legal basis in the national context.
- ▶ No EU organisation has the mandate, responsibility for QA and the capacity to make formal decisions: nor the European Commission, nor the EQF Advisory Group
- ▶ An association of national sectoral bodies can have high ‘credentials’
- ▶ The EQF Recommendation is only a ‘recommendation’ (soft law) and implementation by the MS is on voluntary basis, but MS can decide to work together
- ▶ Quality assurance of qualifications and E&T programmes formally linked to the NQFs is a national responsibility ; common QA principles in Annex IV of the EQF Rec. 2017



# EQF Recommendation 2017 - recommendation 11

The Commission together with the Member States and other stakeholders in the EQF AG:

- ▶ Support the setting up of voluntary procedures on the levelling of international qualifications through national qualification frameworks or systems and information exchange and consultation between Member States on those procedures to ensure consistency.
- ▶ Important remark: a lot of NQFs in the EU are in an early stage of implementation and not all are embedded in national legislation what limits the impact



# Harmonisation of qualifications in EU

## 3 perspectives

### A. For facilitating access to regulated professions

- Tool = Directive 2005/36/EC (minimum requirements)
- EQF is not a tool for harmonisation
- Within this Directive EQF is only mentioned in art. 49a on Common Training Frameworks

### B. For facilitating access to non-regulated professions

= free field – EU intervention wanted ?

### C. For facilitating access to further education = not needed nor wanted by the MS - ‘academic recognition’ (NARIC/ENIC) – based on the Lisbon Convention

