

**Question for written answer E-001323/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Herbert Dorfmann (PPE)

Subject: Uneven playing field for hiking guides in Italy

In 1989, the Italian Government adopted a law to regulate the mountain guide profession. Articles 21 and 22 of the corresponding state law (Law No. 6 of 2 January 1989), stipulate that whilst individual regions can oversee the training and certification of hiking guides, the latter can only exercise their profession in the region where they received their training and qualifications.

The Union of International Mountain Leader Associations was founded in 2004 and, among others, its members include Italy, Germany and Austria. The additional training to become an International Mountain Leader (IML) has established uniform and transnational qualification standards for hiking guides.

In 2016, a special register for hiking guides was set up at the regional and provincial level in the professional chamber of South Tyrolean mountain and ski guides, and the guidelines for practising the profession were regulated and enshrined in law.

Due to government restrictions in Italy, a South Tyrolean hiking guide can only practise their profession at regional level, even if they have additional international training (IML), whereas a hiking guide from Austria, for example, can organise guided tours internationally and throughout Italy.

How will the Commission ensure that the requirements and restrictions on hiking guides in Italy, governed by Law No. 6/1989, do not infringe Directive 2004/38/EC on citizens' unrestricted freedom of movement within the EU, Directive 2005/36/EC on the recognition of professional qualifications, or Directive 2006/123/EC on services in the internal market?

Submitted: 25.4.2024