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HRK Senate draws up key points for state legislation governing engineer status

Several German states are currently preparing to revise their state legislation governing engineer status. This move has been prompted by the EU directive on the Recognition of Professional Qualifications. The aim is to speed up recognition procedures and improve the mobility of qualified professionals within the EU.

However, the draft legislation also includes other amendments relating to the professional designation "engineer".

The Senate of the German Rectors' Conference (HRK) has therefore drawn up the following key points, which it hopes will serve as a guideline for the state legislation governing engineer status. The prerequisites for recognition as an "engineer" in all states should be brought more into line with one another.

1. Rules in legislation governing engineer status must not inappropriately restrict the autonomy of universities. Quantitative definitions for the proportion of subject modules in degree programmes in engineering legislation restrict the freedom of universities to an impermissible degree and are therefore not acceptable.

2. For German universities, it is essential that legislation governing engineer status directly authorises use of the designation "engineer" without this requiring a further legal act, for example the awarding of the occupational title by a professional chamber or similar establishment.

3. All graduates of a relevant course in a technical, engineering or natural sciences discipline at a German university lasting at least six semesters must be entitled to call themselves an engineer. Membership of a professional chamber must not be required in order to use this designation.

4. In their graduation certificates and diploma supplements, universities state that the graduates may use the designation "engineer" in accordance with the legislation governing engineer status of the relevant state. This provides sufficient transparency and clarity.

Go to the text of the resolution