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**Abstract**

The Directive on the recognition of professional qualifications is currently under review. A draft legislative proposal will follow at the end of 2011. The proposal may go some way towards bringing EU legislation into line with the Bologna process, but the issues are complex and the ongoing lively debate is likely to become even more animated when the legislative process begins. This article summarises the policy background, recent initiatives by the European Commission and European Parliament, the principal Bologna-related matters at stake, and the timeframe. It also provides the introduction to this special issue of the Journal, setting the context for the more focused articles on architecture, dentistry, engineering, nursing and quality assurance, which accompany it. Finally ? in an Afterword ? it examines the Commission?s very recent Evaluation of the Directive and Green Paper (June and July 2011); both rehearse the positions which are likely to inform the eventual draft legislative proposal. (HRK / Abstract übernommen)