



**ΠΑΡΑΡΤΗΜΑ ΠΡΩΤΟ**  
**ΤΗΣ ΕΠΙΣΗΜΗΣ ΕΦΗΜΕΡΙΔΑΣ ΤΗΣ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑΣ**  
Αρ. 3540 της 26ης ΟΚΤΩΒΡΙΟΥ 2001  
**ΝΟΜΟΘΕΣΙΑ**

**ΜΕΡΟΣ ΙΙΙ**

Ο περί της Σύμβασης του Συμβουλίου της Ευρώπης/UNESCO για την Αναγνώριση Προσόντων σχετικά με την Ανώτερη Εκπαίδευση στον Ευρωπαϊκό Χώρο (Κυρωτικός) Νόμος του 2001 εκδίδεται με δημοσίευση στην Επίσημη Εφημερίδα της Κυπριακής Δημοκρατίας σύμφωνα με το Άρθρο 52 του Συντάγματος.

Αριθμός 24(III) του 2001

**ΝΟΜΟΣ ΠΟΥ ΠΡΟΝΟΕΙ ΓΙΑ ΤΗΝ ΚΥΡΩΣΗ ΤΗΣ ΣΥΜΒΑΣΗΣ ΤΟΥ  
ΣΥΜΒΟΥΛΙΟΥ ΕΥΡΩΠΗΣ/UNESCO ΓΙΑ ΤΗΝ ΑΝΑΓΝΩΡΙΣΗ  
ΠΡΟΣΟΝΤΩΝ ΣΧΕΤΙΚΑ ΜΕ ΤΗΝ ΑΝΩΤΕΡΗ ΕΚΠΑΙΔΕΥΣΗ  
ΣΤΟΝ ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΟ ΧΩΡΟ**

Η Βουλή των Αντιπροσώπων ψηφίζει ως ακολούθως:

1. Ο παρών Νόμος θα αναφέρεται ως ο περί της Σύμβασης του Συμβουλίου της Ευρώπης/UNESCO για την Αναγνώριση Προσόντων σχετικά με την Ανώτερη Εκπαίδευση στον Ευρωπαϊκό Χώρο (Κυρωτικός) Νόμος του 2001. Συνοπτικός  
τίτλος.

2. —(1) Στο Νόμο αυτό, εκτός αν από το κείμενο προκύπτει διαφορετική έννοια— Ερμηνεία.

«Δημοκρατία» σημαίνει την Κυπριακή Δημοκρατία·

«Σύμβαση» σημαίνει τη Σύμβαση του Συμβουλίου Ευρώπης/UNESCO για την αναγνώριση προσόντων σχετικά με την ανώτερη εκπαίδευση στον Ευρωπαϊκό χώρο το πρωτότυπο κείμενο της οποίας (στην αγγλική) εκτίθεται στο Μέρος I του Πίνακα και σε μετάφραση στην ελληνική στο Μέρος II αυτού. Πίνακας.  
Μέρος I,  
Μέρος II.

(2) Σε περίπτωση διαφοράς του κειμένου που εκτίθεται στο Μέρος I του Πίνακα και του κειμένου που εκτίθεται στο Μέρος II αυτού υπερισχύει το κείμενο που εκτίθεται στο Μέρος I.

3. Με το Νόμο αυτό κυρώνεται η Σύμβαση της οποίας η υπογραφή εκ μέρους της Δημοκρατίας εγκρίθηκε από το Υπουργικό Συμβούλιο με την Απόφασή του Αριθμός 47.401 και ημερομηνία 18 Φεβρουαρίου 1998. Κύρωση της  
Σύμβασης.

**CONVENTION ON THE RECOGNITION OF QUALIFICATIONS  
CONCERNING HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE EUROPEAN REGION**

**Lisbon, 11.IV.1997**

**The Parties to this Convention,**

*Conscious* of the fact that the right to education is a human right, and that higher education, which is instrumental in the pursuit and advancement of knowledge, constitutes an exceptionally rich cultural and scientific asset for both individuals and society;

*Considering* that higher education should play a vital role in promoting peace, mutual understanding and tolerance, and in creating mutual confidence among peoples and nations;

*Considering* that the great diversity of education systems in the European region reflects its cultural, social, political, philosophical, religious and economic diversity, an exceptional asset which should be fully respected;

*Desiring* to enable all people of the region to benefit fully from this rich asset of diversity by facilitating access by the inhabitants of each State and by the students of each Party's educational institutions to the educational resources of the other Parties, more specifically by facilitating their efforts to continue their education or to complete a period of studies in higher education institutions in those other Parties;

*Considering* that the recognition of studies, certificates, diplomas and degrees obtained in another country of the European region represents an important measure for promoting academic mobility between the Parties;

*Attaching* great importance to the principle of institutional autonomy, and conscious of the need to uphold and protect this principle;

*Convinced* that a fair recognition of qualifications is a key element of the right to education and a responsibility of society;

*Having regard* to the Council of Europe and UNESCO Conventions covering academic recognition in Europe:

European Convention on the Equivalence of Diplomas leading to Admission to Universities (1953, ETS No. 15), and its Protocol (1964, ETS No. 49);

European Convention on the Equivalence of Periods of University Study (1956, ETS No. 21);

European Convention on the Academic Recognition of University Qualifications (1959, ETS No. 32);

Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees concerning Higher Education in the States belonging to the Europe Region (1979);

European Convention on the General Equivalence of Periods of University Study (1990, ETS No. 138);

*Having regard* also to the International Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education in the Arab and European States bordering

on the Mediterranean (1976), adopted within the framework of UNESCO and partially covering academic recognition in Europe;

*Mindful* that this Convention should also be considered in the context of the UNESCO conventions and the International Recommendation covering other Regions of the world, and of the need for an improved exchange of information between these Regions;

*Conscious* of the wide ranging changes in higher education in the European region since these Conventions were adopted, resulting in considerably increased diversification within and between national higher education systems, and of the need to adapt the legal instruments and practice to reflect these developments;

*Conscious* of the need to find common solutions to practical recognition problems in the European region;

*Conscious* of the need to improve current recognition practice and to make it more transparent and better adapted to the current situation of higher education in the European region;

*Confident* of the positive significance of a Convention elaborated and adopted under the joint auspices of the Council of Europe and UNESCO providing a framework for the further development of recognition practices in the European region;

*Conscious* of the importance of providing permanent implementation mechanisms in order to put the principles and provisions of the current Convention into practice,

Have agreed as follows:

## Section I. Definitions

### Article I

For the purposes of this Convention, the following terms shall have the following meaning:

#### **Access (to higher education)**

The right of qualified candidates to apply and to be considered for admission to higher education.

#### **Admission (to higher education institutions and programmes)**

The act of, or system for, allowing qualified applicants to pursue studies in higher education at a given institution and/or a given programme.

#### **Assessment (of institutions or programmes)**

The process for establishing the educational quality of a higher education institution or programme.

#### **Assessment (of individual qualifications)**

The written appraisal or evaluation of an individual's foreign qualifications by a competent body.

#### **Competent recognition authority**

A body officially charged with making binding decisions on the recognition of foreign qualifications.

### **Higher education**

All types of courses of study, or sets of courses of study, training or training for research at the post secondary level which are recognized by the relevant authorities of a Party as belonging to its higher education system.

### **Higher education institution**

An establishment providing higher education and recognized by the competent authority of a Party as belonging to its system of higher education.

### **Higher education programme**

A course of study recognized by the competent authority of a Party as belonging to its system of higher education, and the completion of which provides the student with a higher education qualification.

### **Period of study**

Any component of a higher education programme which has been evaluated and documented and, while not a complete programme of study in itself, represents a significant acquisition of knowledge or skill.

### **Qualification**

#### **A. Higher education qualification**

Any degree, diploma or other certificate issued by a competent authority attesting the successful completion of a higher education programme.

#### **B. Qualification giving access to higher education**

Any diploma or other certificate issued by a competent authority attesting the successful completion of an education programme and giving the holder of the qualification the right to be considered for admission to higher education (cf. the definition of access).

### **Recognition**

A formal acknowledgement by a competent authority of the value of a foreign educational qualification with a view to access to educational and/or employment activities.

### **Requirement**

#### **A. General requirements**

Conditions that must in all cases be fulfilled for access to higher education, or to a given level thereof, or for the award of a higher education qualification at a given level.

#### **B. Specific requirements**

Conditions that must be fulfilled, in addition to the general requirements, in order to gain admission to a particular higher education programme, or for the award of a specific higher education qualification in a particular field of study.

## Section II. The competence of authorities

### Article II.1

1. Where central authorities of a Party are competent to make decisions in recognition cases, that Party shall be immediately bound by the provisions of this Convention and shall take the necessary measures to ensure the implementation of its provisions on its territory.

Where the competence to make decisions in recognition matters lies with components of the Party, the Party shall furnish one of the depositaries with a brief statement of its constitutional situation or structure at the time of signature or when depositing its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, or any time thereafter. In such cases, the competent authorities of the components of the Parties so designated shall take the necessary measures to ensure implementation of the provisions of this Convention on their territory.

2. Where the competence to make decisions in recognition matters lies with individual higher education institutions or other entities, each Party according to its constitutional situation or structure shall transmit the text of this convention to these institutions or entities and shall take all possible steps to encourage the favourable consideration and application of its provisions.
3. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to the obligations of the Parties under subsequent articles of this Convention.

### Article II.2

At the time of signature or when depositing its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, or at any time thereafter, each State, the Holy See or the European Community shall inform either depositary of the present Convention of the authorities which are competent to make different categories of decisions in recognition cases.

### Article II.3

Nothing in this Convention shall be deemed to derogate from any more favourable provisions concerning the recognition of qualifications issued in one of the Parties contained in or stemming from an existing or a future treaty to which a Party to this Convention may be or may become a party.

## Section III. Basic principles related to the assessment of qualifications

### Article III.1

1. Holders of qualifications issued in one of the Parties shall have adequate access, upon request to the appropriate body, to an assessment of these qualifications.
2. No discrimination shall be made in this respect on any ground such as the applicant's gender, race, colour, disability, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, association with a national minority, property, birth or other status, or on the grounds of any other circumstance not related to the merits of the qualification for which recognition is sought. In order to assure this right, each Party undertakes to make appropriate arrangements for the assessment of an application for recognition of qualifications solely on the basis of the knowledge and skills achieved.