

ESMA - Consultation on the Guidelines for the criteria on the assessment of knowledge and competence under MiCA

Dear Sir or Madam,

On behalf of the **DEC Institute**, we are pleased to submit our formal response to the Consultation Paper: Guidelines for the criteria on the assessment of knowledge and competence under the Markets in Crypto-Assets Regulation (MiCA)

The DEC Institute is a global professional certification body and society for blockchain, crypto-assets, and Web3 professionals. Its mission is to uphold the highest standards of education and professional excellence in blockchain and digital assets for the benefit of both industry and society. With over 4,500 professional learners from approximately 120 countries, DEC is recognized as a global leader in professional examinations. We already provide education and knowledge certification of financial advisors to many of our member organizations.

As a certification authority, DEC addresses the knowledge gap in crypto and blockchain by offering formal professional qualifications. It delivers the **Chartered Blockchain Analyst (CBA®) I & II** and **Chartered Digital Asset Analyst (CDAA®) I & II** programs – comprehensive certifications developed and endorsed by leading academic institutions, industry players, and its consortium members. These programs establish a professional designation standard for blockchain and digital assets, covering a broad curriculum spanning **technology, business & economics, and regulatory & compliance topics**.

DEC ensures rigorous standards through structured curricula and examinations, which are administered worldwide via Pearson VUE test centers. This guarantees that professionals building or selling crypto-asset services or advising on crypto-assets possess a solid, multidisciplinary knowledge foundation. Furthermore, DEC's certification framework aligns directly with **ESMA's criteria for an "appropriate qualification."** For example, DEC offers **24-hour introductory online courses in Blockchain and Digital Assets** and recommends **4–6 weeks of self-study** for Level 1 exams. To maintain professional competence, DEC enforces ongoing learning through its **Continuing Professional Development (CPD)** platform. Charterholders must accumulate and report 60 CPD hours within three years to keep their professional designation active.

In summary, DEC certifications provide a **measurable and verifiable standard of knowledge for crypto-asset professionals** – precisely the type of qualification ESMA envisions to ensure staff have the necessary expertise. By earning a DEC certification, individuals demonstrate they meet rigorous competency requirements in crypto technology, markets, and regulation, fulfilling the minimum qualification standards outlined in Guideline 1.

Yours faithfully,

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