

Task Force on the Review of the Rules and Regulations for the Governance of the European Higher Education Area

Suggestion for the Tirana Communiqué

Considering the updated draft text of the communiqué from 27 March 2024, the Task Force proposes to: integrate in the communiqué a following separate point after the line 176. Previous and following formulations of the draft communiqué are shown in italics to clarify the relevant parts of the draft.

The proposed text of the **Annex “Long-term EHEA Secretariat – Principles and Roadmap”** is included in a separate document.

...across borders and with the BFUG.

A long term, firmly based EHEA

In view of the long-term character of the EHEA, we consider that firmer structural arrangements are now necessary to ensure its consistent, stable development. We therefore:

- adopt revised Rules of Procedure for the EHEA and invite the BFUG to adopt Rules of procedure of for its own work in due course;
- agree on benefits of establishing a long-term, independent, international EHEA Secretariat to strengthen a European aspect, stability, and effectiveness of the EHEA;
- mandate the BFUG to prepare the new arrangements for such an EHEA secretariat, and ensure it may be launched on 1 July 2027, in line with the principles and the roadmap laid out in the Annex X.
- agree to undertake an assessment of this arrangement after the completion of the 2030-33 work programme

Outlook

For our 2027 Ministerial Conference....

Explanatory note for the BFUG members

Related suggestions of the Task Force for the 2024-2027 work programme. The BFUG would

- further discuss and decide on the arrangements and modalities for the secretariat (in terms of legal form, location, TOR, staffing, organisational and financial and budgetary aspects), for its launch by 1 July 2027.
- in order to explore these issues, and to inform and prepare the work of the BFUG, establish a new working structure (Task Force), which would also propose related changes in the RoP.
- make a call for hosting country / organisation soon in the new work period, the role of the Task Force would also be to liaise with potential candidates and report to the BFUG on progress.
- take in Spring 2026 a milestone go/no-go decision on the launch of the long-term secretariat including its funding model