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Pan-European Structure

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Per Nyborg
Head of Secretariat
Bologna Follow-Up Group

Brussels, 22nd March 2005
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EUROPEAN REGION

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Chief Regional Coordinator

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Dear Sir,

Following your letter of 9th March 2005 and our request for application as consultative member of the Bologna Follow-up Group (BFUG), we are pleased to send you herewith a rephrased application taking into account the different criteria.

The EI Pan-European Structure is the European regional Structure of **"Education International"** incorporating ETUCE and representing 142 organisations in 45 countries.

The EI Pan-European Structure is the recognised voice of teachers and researchers in higher education across the whole geographic area of the Bologna Process, representing 51 organisations in 29 countries. Our members belong to universities as well as to large research institutions, which, in our opinion, represents a main asset for a closer relationship in the Bologna Process with the research sector in general, and the European Research Area more specifically. We do not see this essential aspect being covered by other members of the BFUG.

Our organisation covers all levels of education but the Bologna Process is, for many years, fundamental to the work of our only sectoral body, which is our Higher Education and Research Standing Committee. Through this Committee our affiliates in this sector have regular opportunities (two meetings per year) for dialogue and networking across the whole "Bologna" area.

As a Trade Union body we are central to building links with the labour market directly or through our integrated structure ETUCE. We are recognised as a professional organisation and as a social partner by organisations like UNESCO, the ILO and OECD through its Trade Union Advisory Committee (TUAC).

As you will note from the documents herewith, our organisation is highly representative and present in all sectors of European national education systems. For many years, we have been working together with students' organisations (with whom a formal agreement was signed in July 2004), with representatives of the institutions and with UNESCO/CEPES in particular.

In order to strengthen our commitment, to prepare and develop the contribution of national European organisations of Higher Education teachers and researchers in the ongoing implementation of the Bologna Process, to prepare for the Bergen Conference of May 2005, and to follow the work and recommendations of our Higher Education and Research Standing Committee, we have decided:



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- To prepare a European Teachers' Trade Union review based on a survey carried out with national unions in the various "Bologna signatory countries". This survey was conducted by the Norwegian Research Institute NIFU STEP which has been commissioned for . You will find attached the report
- To organize a **Conference, which took place in Brussels on 11-12 February 2005**, where the outcomes of this survey supplemented with other relevant documents were presented.

The main results were:

- A better understanding of the issues in the Bologna Process
- An evaluation of the involvement of academics and their representative organizations
- An improved collaboration with students and institutions
- An improved exchange of information between national teacher organizations
- A higher profile for representative organizations of academic staff
- A strong commitment to the Bologna process, through the Statement adopted by the Conference (see attached)

Further than the recognition of our organization as a consultative member, we would like to draw the attention of the Ministerial Conference to the academic community, who in our opinion has been left out of the implementation of the Bologna Process. We suggest that the Ministerial Conference consider academic staff (their role, place, status...) as one of the work themes for the 2005/2007 programme. If our proposal is accepted, our organization is willing to commit to every report, study or seminar to be carried out with the partners concerned.

"The higher education and research staff unions of Europe welcome and support the Bologna process as a means of protecting and enhancing higher education and research across the European area, and increasing transparency and mobility. We believe that 'Bologna' acknowledges the place within the public domain. We welcome the emphasis on quality but assert that this will require a greater public investment in the system and its staff if quality is to be sustained let alone enhanced.

We attach great importance to the issue of representation. Academic staff and researchers are an essential pillar of the higher education and research community who must be involved in the Bologna process through their representative organisations. The unions for academic staff and researchers are clear, however, that their role goes beyond the concept of "social dialogue", to embrace a range of professional issues relating to quality, access, public accountability, working conditions, and the public sector values which are central to universities' place in modern societies". (Conclusion of the Statement adopted on February 12, 2005)

You will find attached for consideration:

- The survey on “the role of academics in the Bologna process – a survey of participation and views”
- The policy statement adopted on February 12, 2005

You have received in December:

- The joint Statutes
- The EI Pan-European Membership List
- Excerpts from 2 studies conducted in 2003 for the Berlin Round
- Our Statement to the 2003 Berlin Ministerial Conference
- Reports from the Pan-European Standing Committee on Higher Education and Research in 2003 and 2004

We sincerely hope that you will find these documents helpful and that the Ministerial Conference will recognise our organisation as a trustworthy, responsible partner in following through the Bologna Process.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Doug McAvoy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent flourish at the end.

Doug McAvoy
President

Cc : Kristin Clemet Minister of Education Norway
Kari Kjendalenn, General Secretary “ Forskerforbundet”