

BFUG9 5 (BFUGB13 8)

1 September 2006

ELECTION PROCEDURE FOR BFUG BOARD MEMBERS

Introduction

1) Following the election of new Board members at the April 2006 meeting of the Bologna Follow Up Group (BFUG), it was agreed that the Secretariat would produce a paper clarifying the procedures for future elections.

Background

2) The Berlin Communiqué of September 2003 stated that a Board shall oversee the work between the meetings of the BFUG and that the Board will comprise:

- the EU Troika
- the country hosting the next Ministerial Conference
- the European Commission
- four consultative members (EUA, ESIB, EURASHE, CoE)
- three participating countries elected by the BFUG for one year.

Eligibility

3) Countries which have previously sat on the Board as an elected member will not be re-eligible for two years. Nor are countries eligible to stand for election if they will join the Board during the period concerned as a member of the EU Troika or as host of the next bi-annual Ministerial Conference. As at July 2006, the following countries have taken part in the Board as an elected member:

- October 2003-June 2004 Austria
- October 2003-June 2004 Belgium
- October 2003-June 2004 Finland
- July 2004-May 2005 Latvia
- July 2004-May 2005 Malta
- July 2004-May 2005 Slovenia
- June 2005-June 2006 Denmark
- June 2005-June 2006 Greece
- June 2005-June 2006 Turkey
- July 2006-May 2007 France
- July 2006-May 2007 Georgia
- July 2006-May 2007 Romania

Pre-election procedure

4) Approximately one month prior to the BFUG meeting during which the election will be held, the Secretariat will contact all eligible BFUG countries to ask if they wish to stand for election. Nominations will be invited by an agreed deadline. This will normally be at least two weeks before the next BFUG meeting.

Election procedure

5) In the event that more than three countries indicate they would like to be considered for election to the Board, election will be by vote. Elections will be held at the BFUG meeting immediately prior to the beginning of the mandate of the Board. It will be held by voting slips distributed at BFUG meetings. Voting will be by secret ballot. The agreed voting procedures are as follows:

- Candidates: all eligible countries that formally expressed their candidature by the agreed deadline;
- Number of votes: two voting slips per country¹: members may vote for up to three nominees on each voting slip. Only country members of BFUG and the European Commission may vote (i.e. not consultative members);
- The three candidates receiving the highest number of votes on the first ballot will be elected. Should two or more countries be tied for third place, a second ballot will be held to determine which of these countries shall be the third country elected.
- In any second ballot, BFUG members will vote for one of the countries tied for third place. The same voting rules apply as in the first ballot; there will be two voting slips per country and the European Commission.

6) The Secretariat will issue two voting slips to each country member and the European Commission at the BFUG meeting. The votes will be collected, counted and the results announced during the meeting. The Secretariat will undertake this task, overseen by the BFUG Chair.

Board Meetings during period July 2006- 2009 Ministerial conference

7) It is expected that between July 2006 and May 2007 the Board will meet twice: 1 September 2006 in Helsinki and 23 January 2007 in Berlin.

8) The current Board will continue until the end of May 2007.

9) From May 2007 until the next Ministerial conference, there will be two Boards: from 1 June 2007 until 30 June 2008 and 1 July 2008 until the end of the month in which the Ministerial conference takes place.

Bologna Secretariat
August 2006

¹ This rule is intended to allow countries in which two Ministries are responsible for higher education (e.g. Belgium (Flemish and French Communities) and Germany (Federal and Lander level) to vote while ensuring that all countries have an equal number of votes. Delegations decide who cast the votes on their behalf.