



Ministry of Science, Innovation  
and Higher Education



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Ministry of Education  
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Dear Minister,

I am writing to inform you, on behalf of the Danish and Azeri Co-Chairs of the Bologna-Follow-Up Group (BFUG), regarding the application of the Republic of Belarus for accession to the European Higher Education Area (EHEA), which was received on 30 November 2011 by the BFUG Secretariat.

As you know, the accession to the EHEA is contingent on the applicant country fulfilling two criteria: it must be a party to the European Cultural Convention and its competent public authorities must commit to implementing the main objectives and policies of the EHEA, while upholding the principles of the Bologna Process.

The Bologna Follow-Up Group (BFUG) discussed the future EHEA membership of the Republic of Belarus in its recent meeting, which took place in Copenhagen on 18-19 January 2012. The BFUG considers that the criteria for accession to the EHEA are at present not fulfilled by the Republic of Belarus. Therefore, the BFUG will advise the EHEA ministers not to approve the EHEA membership of the Republic of Belarus at the Bucharest Ministerial Conference.

The countries of the EHEA hope they will one day be able to welcome the Republic of Belarus as a member, once the necessary reforms have been put into effect in order to fulfill the EHEA accession criteria.

As a final note, I would like to underline that the countries of the EHEA expressed their commitment to assisting the Belarusian civil society, in particular the academic community, to develop in accordance with the main principles, policies and objectives of the EHEA, including academic freedom, institutional autonomy and student participation in higher education governance.

Sincerely yours,

Ligia Deca  
Head of the BFUG Secretariat