

**MEETING OF THE BOLOGNA FOLLOW-UP GROUP
Brussels, 30 November – 1 December 2009**

Draft outcome of proceedings

1. Adoption of the agenda

Documents: BFUG (SE) 19_1a [draft agenda]
BFUG (SE) 19_1b [draft annotated agenda]

The Chair (Myrna Smitt, Sweden) opened the meeting, presented the agenda and informed the BFUG that apologies had been received from Switzerland and Moldova. The agenda (doc. BFUG (SE) 19_1b) was adopted.

2. Outcome of proceedings of the BFUG meeting, Stockholm, 28-29 September 2009

Document: BFUG (SE) 19_2 [draft outcome of proceedings]

The Council of Europe asked to use the internationally recognised name "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" instead of FYROM (p.8). ESU requested that their comment made at the Stockholm BFUG meeting that the Bologna Secretariat should maintain neutrality on political issues raised should be included in the outcome of proceedings. With these changes, the outcome of proceedings of the Stockholm BFUG (doc. BFUG (SE) 19_2) was approved.

3. Information by the Swedish Presidency

Carl-Albert Hjelmborn (Counsellor of Research and Education) from the Permanent Representation of Sweden to the EU presented the main priorities of the Swedish Presidency in the field of higher education and the outcome of the Council of Education, Youth and Culture (part higher education), which had taken place on 26 November 2009.



Presentation BFUG
30 nov.ppt

a) The Council of Education, Youth and Culture had adopted conclusions on the knowledge triangle, aimed at a better integration of the fields of research, education and innovation (see http://www.se2009.eu/polopoly_fs/1.25257!menu/standard/file/111486.pdf).

b) Based on a presentation by the European Commission on the report on progress in quality assurance in higher education, the Ministers had held a policy debate about quality assurance and transparency instruments.

The European Commission commented that the discussion in the EU Council of Education, Youth and Culture had been fruitful and that further work would follow up. In reaction to questions from the BFUG, Carl-Albert Hjelmborn (Sweden) explained that the transparency tools to be developed would need to be sophisticated to reflect the rich diversity of higher education institutions across Europe. Denmark added that the Council had stressed the need for education issues to be part of the chosen criteria, rather than research only.

4. Information by the Bologna Secretariat

The BFUG took note of the information provided by the Bologna Secretariat concerning its new composition and division of tasks.

5. Preparation of the Budapest/Vienna Ministerial meeting & the Second Bologna Policy Forum

Documents: BFUG (SE) 19_5a [draft programme Budapest/Vienna]
BFUG (SE) 19_5b [sample invitation Bologna Policy Forum]
BFUG (SE) 19_5c [BPF countries to be invited]

The host countries of the next Bologna Ministerial Meeting informed BFUG that the conference would consist of two main parts, with discussions (a) on the results of the Bologna Process, with input from the independent assessment, Eurydice and consultative members, and (b) on the Declaration. In contrast to previous conferences, the input from the different organisations would be clustered in topics such as curricula reform, social dimension, mobility etc. The hosts informed BFUG of further practicalities: 2 family photos will be taken, one in Budapest, one in Vienna; transfer by train will be for official delegations only, with dinner served on the train to all delegates. At both conference venues, there will be tables to display publications etc. The Secretariat will provide BFUG with the addresses and deadlines for sending the material to be displayed. No material will be transported from Budapest to Vienna.

The delegates to the Bologna Policy Forum are invited to the festive evening event on 11 March 2010 and will have the opportunity to participate in an information session in the morning of 12 March 2010, with contributions from various stakeholders. The Bologna Policy Forum as such is meant to be a platform for discussion. To encourage active participation of the heads of delegations, discussions will take place in three working groups and interpretation will be provided for English, German, Spanish, French and Russian in the plenary and in two of the working groups; the third one will be in English only.

The hosts thanked UNESCO for the support in selecting the countries to be invited. The hosts asked the BFUG whether as outcome of the Bologna Policy Forum they preferred conclusions by the Chair or a statement drafted and circulated beforehand with concrete commitments for the follow-up. Council of Europe, European Commission and ESU supported the idea of a negotiated statement if this was feasible; otherwise they suggested that the Chair prepare conclusions. The hosts concluded that if there was enough substance for an agreed statement, a draft would be prepared for the next Board and BFUG meetings. Otherwise there would be Chair's conclusions only.

6. Further adjustments to the Bologna Work Plan 2009-2012

Documents: BFUG (SE) 19_6a [work plan]
BFUG (SE) 19_6b [calendar of events]

Working group on qualifications frameworks (WG QF):

Poland expressed interest in joining the WG QF. The Council of Europe suggested that the chair of the WG QF would be a member of the recognition working group and vice-versa. With these two amendments, the terms of reference of the BFUG working group on qualifications frameworks were approved.

Working group on reporting on the implementation of the Bologna Process (WG Reporting):

The revised terms of reference that had resulted from the first meeting of the working group in Luxembourg were approved. The central task of the group will be to prepare one overall report on the implementation of the Bologna Process, integrating data collected by Eurostat, Eurostudent and Eurydice. For this purpose, the group will come up with a list of indicators and questions to be approved by BFUG.

Working group on mobility (WG M):

The Chair of the working group expressed the wish to have also countries with declining mobility represented in the group, which would have its first meeting in Berlin on 13 January 2010. The terms of reference were approved.

Working group on social dimension (WG SD):

EURASHE expressed interest in joining the WG SD. The terms of reference were approved.

Working group on recognition (WG Rec.):

The Latvian chair of the group informed BFUG that the first meeting of the group would take place in February. The group should include both policy-makers and recognition experts. UK/Scotland, Finland and UNESCO expressed the wish to join the recognition working group.

Working group on transparency mechanisms (WG TM):

Taking into account the discussions at the first meeting of the working group in the morning of 30 November 2009, the terms of reference were slightly redrafted by merging the first two bullets under the heading "purpose and outcomes".

The European Commission expressed concerns about the preparation of a report on transparency mechanisms for 2012, referring to the request by the Ministers for a single overall report. The Bologna Secretariat explained that in addition to preparing one report on the implementation of the Bologna Process, Ministers had asked the BFUG to report back on the development of the transparency mechanisms (paragraph 26 of the Leuven/Louvain-la-Neuve Communiqué).

With these amendments, the BFUG work plan 2009-2012 was approved.



BFUG Work Plan
2009-2012

7. Preparation of the election of 5 BFUG representatives as observers to the EQAR Register Committee

Document: BFUG (SE) 19_7 [election procedure reg. committee observ.]

As requested at the Stockholm BFUG meeting, the Secretariat, after having consulted EQAR and the Register Committee observers, had prepared a document describing the role of the Register Committee observers and defining the procedure for their election.

After a brief discussion, BFUG approved the proposed election procedure, specifying that

- observers to the Register Committee can be re-elected three times and thus serve a maximum of four periods, consecutive or not;
- the countries elected should be represented by BFUG members.

The Secretariat will send out an e-mail to remind BFUG country members interested in acting as Register Committee observers for the period 1 July 2010-30 June 2012 to put forward their candidature by 24 December 2009.

8. Independent assessment of the Bologna Process

Document: confidential *draft report distributed to BFUG members by e-mail on 3 November 2009*

After discussing the draft report and taking into account the strong disappointment of many of its members with the quality and the nature of the report as well as with the way in which the validation seminar had been organized, with long presentations and insufficient time for comments, BFUG agreed that:

- The countries and organisations represented in the BFUG will send their written comments and amendments to the researchers with copy to the Secretariat by 9 December 2009;
- The researchers are asked to correct the factual mistakes and to add an explicit, independent, and critical assessment of the achievements of the Bologna Process;
- Recommendations are not needed in the report, as they have not been requested in the Terms of Reference.
- An annex could be added to show how the researchers dealt with the comments made at the meetings of the advisory board;
- The European Commission, as contracting authority, will remind CHEPS of the Terms of Reference of the Independent Assessment;

- The BFUG underlined the importance of submitting a revised report, brought up to acceptable standards in due time for the meetings of the Bologna Board (28 January) and the BFUG (18 – 19 February), allowing the BFUG to include the report among the documents submitted to the Ministerial meeting, as requested by the Ministers. The final decision on how to deal with the report will be taken at the BFUG meeting in Madrid on 18-19 February 2010.

9. Preparation of the Budapest Vienna Declaration

Documents: BFUG (SE) 18_7.1rev [updated roadmap for drafting of Budapest-Vienna Declaration]
BFUG (SE) 19_9a [first outline of declaration]
BFUG (SE) 19_9b [co-chairing note]

The hosts informed BFUG that a short Declaration is planned instead of a longer Communiqué and presented the first outline of it. After an introductory part, the main pillars of the Bologna Process will be mentioned, followed by a response to the key messages of the independent assessment and the contributions of the stakeholders, whose input is expected by 11 January 2010. The Declaration should clearly highlight the uniqueness of the Process, based on cooperation between 46 countries with involvement of the main stakeholders. The last part of the Declaration will be devoted to the developments until 2012.

After a brief discussion, BFUG agreed

- to include a shortened and more political version of the proposed paragraph on the co-chairing;
- to use the Declaration to officially launch the permanent EHEA website;
- to leave out any further reference to the 2009-2012 work plan, as it was considered too technical for a Declaration and no changes were deemed necessary for the time being.

Romania confirmed that on 1 July 2010 it would take over the Bologna Secretariat and that it would take care of hosting and maintaining the permanent EHEA website.

10. Next BFUG meeting, Madrid, 18-19 February 2009

Spain referred to the invitations, which had been sent out by e-mail mid-November, and kindly asked the BFUG members to register no later than 17 January 2010.

11. Any other business

No comments were made.

List of participants

Country / Organisation	Name
Swedish Presidency	Carl-Albert Hjelmborn
Swedish Presidency	Myrna Smitt (Chair)
Andorra	Mar Martinez
Armenia	Gayane Harutyunyan
Austria	Gottfried Bacher
Austria	Barbara Weitgruber (Vice-Chair)
Belgium /Flemish Community	Noël Vercruysse
Belgium /French Community	Kevin Guillaume
Belgium /French Community	Chantal Kaufmann
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Petar Marić
Croatia	Luka Juroš
Cyprus	Efstathios Michael
Czech Republic	Věra Štátná
Denmark	Mette Juul Jensen
Denmark	Helle Otte
Denmark	Torben Kornbech Rasmussen
Estonia	Heli Aru
Finland	Maija Innola
France	Hélène Lagier
France	Yves Vallat
Georgia	Nino Svanadze
Germany	Birgit Galler
Germany	Peter Greisler
Germany	Birger Hendriks
Germany	Andrea Herdegen
Holy See	P. Friedrich Bechina
Hungary	László Csekei
Hungary	János Csirik (Vice-Chair)
Iceland	Einar Hreinsson
Ireland	Laura Casey
Italy	Marzia Foroni
Italy	Giunio Luzzatto
Latvia	Andrejs Rauhvargers
Liechtenstein	Helmut Konrad
Lithuania	Rimvydas Labanauskis
Luxembourg	Germain Dondelinger
Malta	Jacques Sciberras
Montenegro	Biljana Misovic
Netherlands	Susanne Feiertag
Norway	Toril Johansson
Norway	Tone Flood Strøm
Poland	Maria Boltruszko
Poland	Tomasz Saryusz-Wolski
Portugal	Sebastião Feyo de Azevedo
Romania	Adrian Curaj
Romania	Mihai Korka
Romania	Remus Pricopie
Romania	Camelia Sturza
Romania	Lazar Vlasceanu
Russian Federation	Victor Chistokhvalov
Serbia	Vera Dondur
Serbia	Mirjana Vesovic
Slovenia	Janja Komljenovic
Slovenia	Darinka Vrečko
Spain	Rafael Bonete

Spain	José Ginés Mora Ruiz
Turkey	Ömer Demir
Ukraine	Anatolii Garmash
United Kingdom	Peter Baldwinson
United Kingdom	Alex Young
European Commission	Sophia Eriksson Waterschoot
European Commission	Barbara Nolan
European Commission	Christian Tauch
BUSINESSEUROPE	Henning Dettleff
Council of Europe	Sjur Bergan
Council of Europe	Radu Mircea Damian
Education International	Rudy Van Renterghem
ENQA	Achim Hopbach
ESU	Andrea Blaettler
ESU	Ligia Deca
ESU	Robert Santa
EUA	Elizabeth Colucci
EUA	Michael Gaebel
EUA	Lesley Wilson
EURASHE	Stefan Delplace
EURASHE	Lars Lynge Nielsen
UNESCO	Stamenka Uvalić-Trumbić
UNESCO-CEPES	Peter Wells
Bologna Secretariat	Marlies Leegwater
Bologna Secretariat	Cornelia Racké
Bologna Secretariat	Françoise Bourdon
Bologna Secretariat	Sara Demény
Bologna Secretariat	Sabine Neyer
Bologna Secretariat	Magalie Soenen
EQAR	Colin Tück
EURYDICE	David Crosier
EURYDICE	Simon Dalferth