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**EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE BOLOGNA FOLLOW-UP GROUP
BUCHAREST, 26 April 2012, 09.00 – 11:00
Palace of the Parliament, I.I.C. Brătianu Hall**

Draft Minutes

Jacob Fuchs, the Danish BFUG Chair, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants, while explaining that the extraordinary meeting has the purpose of exchanging updates about the intentions of the various EHEA delegations to raise issues during the Ministerial Conference and in providing the floor for raising potential small amendments to the Bucharest Communiqué.

1. Practical announcements related to the Bucharest Ministerial Conference and Third Bologna Policy Forum

The BFUG Secretariat introduced the specific practical information related to the Bucharest conference, mainly referring to the purpose of the EHEA parallel sessions, the way in which the speakers' list will be drafted for the plenary debates, as well as the opportunities for bilateral meetings. Similarly, announcements related to the transfers to the hotels and dinner venues, internet access and security within the premises were made.

The BFUG members took note of the information provided.

2. Procedure for adoption of the Bucharest Ministerial Communiqué

The BFUG Chair introduced the process through which the available draft of the Bucharest Ministerial Communiqué was prepared for ministerial adoption, while opening the floor for any comments or last minute requests for amendments.

The European Commission argued that the Bucharest Communiqué should be bolder in underlining the need to make progress on recognition and that the EU Commissioner would like to propose an amendment in which the ministers would commit to working together towards automatic recognition of academic qualifications as a long-term goal of the EHEA, while supporting a pathfinder group of countries which could explore how this could be achieved. A concrete amendment was submitted in writing to this effect.

France underlined that their minister would like to see more coherence in the EHEA with regard to the philosophy of the second cycle. A concrete amendment was put forward, regarding the exploration of possible common principles for master programmes in the EHEA.

Germany proposed an additional reference within the Bucharest Communiqué, concerning higher education as an open process of personal development, in which students develop intellectual independence and personal self-assurance alongside disciplinary knowledge and skills. Critical thought should be acquired through the pursuit of academic learning and research. A concrete amendment in this regard was proposed by the German delegation.

The BFUG Chair concluded that the amendments proposed would be discussed during the Bucharest Ministerial Conference sessions and if the delegations agree, they could be introduced in the final adopted version of the Bucharest Communiqué.

3. Procedure for adoption of the Bologna Policy Forum Statement

The BFUG Chair asked for any last minute comments to the Bologna Policy Forum Statement. There were no last minute comments from the delegations present.

The BFUG Secretariat also asked for last minute additions to the BPF Statement annex, which includes the events to be supported by ministers under the BPF umbrella for the 2012-2015 BFUG work plan.

The BFUG Chair thanked the BFUG members, which took note of the deadline given by the BFUG Secretariat for receiving additional events for the annex.

4. AOB

There was no other business raised.

The BFUG Chair thanked the organisers for the welcoming dinner and the logistical arrangements, as well as the BFUG members for their contributions and wished everyone a fruitful conference.