

MEETING OF THE BOLOGNA FOLLOW-UP GROUP

Leuven, 27 April 2009

Outcome of proceedings

1. Adoption of the agenda

Document: BFUG (CZ) 17_1 [draft annotated agenda]

The agenda was adopted.

2. Outcome of proceedings of BFUG meeting in Prague, 26-27 March 2009

Document: BFUG (CZ) 17_2 [BFUG Prague II draft outcome of proceedings]

The BFUG approved the outcome of proceedings of the second BFUG meeting in Prague.

3. Information by the Czech Presidency and the Bologna Secretariat

Document: BFUG (CZ) 17_3 [Ministerial conference final programme]

The BFUG took note of the latest state of affairs concerning the practical preparation of the Leuven/Louvain-la-Neuve Ministerial conference and the Bologna Policy Forum, provided by the Bologna Secretariat and the Vice-Chair.

4. Election of 3 new members of the BFUG Board

Document: BFUG (CZ) 16_3 [Board voting procedure]

- Armenia, Cyprus, Romania and Ukraine expressed their interest for taking up one of the three new mandates available in the BFUG Board before the deadline of 9 April 2009.
- At the vote by BFUG, 81 voting forms were handed in. Armenia obtained 51 votes, Cyprus 66, Romania 63 and Ukraine 46. *Hence, Armenia, Cyprus and Romania are the 3 elected members of the BFUG Board from 1 July 2009-30 June 2010.*

The next Board meeting will take place under Swedish Presidency in Stockholm, 4 September 2009 (full day meeting).

5. Leuven/Louvain-la-Neuve Ministerial Communiqué

Document: BFUG (CZ) 17_5 [Leuven/Louvain-la-Neuve Communiqué, final draft]

The BFUG took stock of the comments which were expected to be made by heads of delegation of the respective countries and organisations during the Ministerial conference.

Issues raised

- Sweden, followed by several countries, asked for an explicit reference in the Communiqué to the role of teachers in international mobility

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- Estonia, followed by UK and other countries questioned the relevance of the 20 % benchmark for mobility and pointed at the lack of reliable statistics on the issue. Italy proposed a slight rewording in order to make clear that 20 % would be the European average, rather than a target to be met by each individual country.
- ESU and the European Commission expressed strong support to adopting the 20 % benchmark for mobility, which they considered a realistic target.
- Funding: ESU, followed by several countries, expressed concern about par. 23 and asked for a formulation that would call for preventing the introduction of financial obstacles for participation in higher education.

Other remarks

- Several countries indicated the main focus of their Minister's planned intervention (social dimension, student-centred learning, multidimensional transparency tools...)
- Romania provided the exact date for the next regular Ministerial meeting in the framework of the Bologna Process to be held in Bucharest, *27-28 April 2012*.

6. Any other business

Next BFUG meeting will be held under Swedish Presidency in Stockholm, 28-29 September 2009 (1 ½ day meeting, closing with lunch on the 2nd day).