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Republika e Kosovës
Republika Kosova-Republic of Kosovo
Qeveria - Vlada-Government

May 3, 2013
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Mr Ruairi Quinn TD
 Minister for Education and Skills
 Republic of Ireland

Mr Željko Jovanović
 Minister of Science, Education and Sports,
 Republic of Croatia

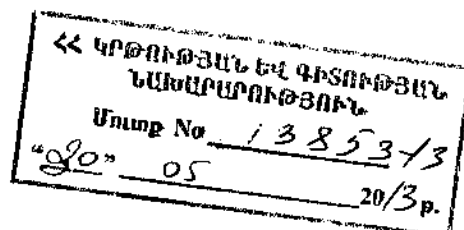
Mr. Armen Ashotyan
 Minister of Education and Science,
 Republic of Armenia

Dear ministers, Dear colleagues,

Application for Accession of the Republic of Kosovo to the European Higher Education Area

In your respective roles as Ministers responsible and representatives of Chair countries and host countries of the next Ministerial conference of the Bologna Follow Up Group, we write to advise you of our intention to prepare and submit an application for the accession of the Republic of Kosovo to the "European Higher Education Area" (EHEA). This application would be for consideration at the next EHEA Ministers Conference in 2015.

Kosovo has, for some time, been actively and consistently developing and orientating its higher education system towards achieving high European standards. Indeed, Kosovo is among the first countries in the region to make significant progress in the implementation of the Bologna process and the three cycle system.



Our efforts have been supported by European governments and institutions such as the European Commission, Austria, Germany and the UK which have provided resolute support to the Republic of Kosovo in the development of all aspects of its higher education system as has the European Commission through the IPA program and the Tempus program.

The Republic of Kosovo attaches great importance to meeting the requirements for EHEA membership and has modernized its higher education legislation and has been in the process of implementing this modernized Higher Education Law. Among its activities Kosovo has made fully operational the Kosovo Accreditation Agency (KAA) - the KAA application for full membership is currently being examined by the ENQA. Also we have established an efficiently functioning ENIC/NARIC Office in Kosovo.

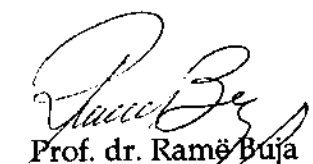
The Republic of Kosovo currently has four Public Universities and twenty three Private Higher Education Institutions. Kosovo is planning for the establishment of an additional number of public higher education institutions in order to meet the high and increasing demand for access to further and higher education from a growing young population in Kosovo.

The Kosovo Steering Group for EHEA Membership is working with the responsible Ministries, with the higher education institutions and other relevant education stakeholders in order to implement those necessary reforms that remain and in order to prepare the application for EHEA membership.

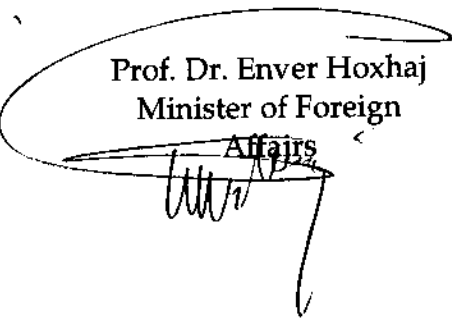
In striving to meet the obligations in full, Kosovo is using the Bologna Process/EHEA documents: "Information to be provided by countries applying for accession to the European Higher Education Area (EHEA), 2011" as a basis for its work. We are also devoting particular attention to the demands and requirements of the "European Cultural Convention".

We should be most grateful for your advice on what might be the most appropriate approach in preparing this Kosovo application for EHEA membership and for your support in this effort.

Yours sincerely,



Prof. dr. Ramë Buja
Minister of Education,
Science and
Technology



Prof. Dr. Enver Hoxhaj
Minister of Foreign
Affairs



Vlora Çitaku
Minister of
European Integration