



Education International
Internationale de l'Éducation
Internacional de la Educación
Bildungsinternationale



ETUCE – European Trade Union Committee for Education
Education International - European Region

ETUCE-CSEE

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Brussels, 15 October 2025

To:

Ms Luminița Matei
Director General for International Relation and European Affairs
Ministry of National Education, Romania

Ms Elena Turcan
Principal Advisor
Ministry of Education and Research, Republic of Moldova

Copy to: EHEA Secretariat

Subject: Request of inclusion of representatives of academics' trade unions in national delegations at the 2027 Iasi–Chisinau Ministerial Conference and Global Policy Forum

Dear Ms Matei,

Dear Ms Turcan,

On behalf of the European Trade Union Committee for Education (ETUCE), representing academic staff and their trade unions in 51 European countries, we wish to express our appreciation for the leadership and commitment demonstrated by Romania and Moldova in co-hosting the BFUG Secretariat and the forthcoming 2027 Iasi–Chisinau Ministerial Conference and Global Policy Forum of the European Higher Education Area.

The Tirana Communiqué reaffirmed a clear commitment by EHEA Ministers to protect, promote, and uphold academic freedom, and to strengthen the participation of students and staff in higher education governance by, among other ways, by having their views represented and taken into account, and participate in all debates and decision-making processes *“in all governing bodies”*.

These principles recognise that academics play a central role in ensuring the quality of teaching and learning and in implementing the fundamental values and social dimensions of higher education. Academic freedom remains a core value that academics and their representative organisations continuously defend and promote within the EHEA.



Therefore, ETUCE respectfully proposes that the size of each national delegation be increased from five (5) to six (6) members, with the sixth seat allocated to a representative of the national trade union of academics in the 2027 Iasi–Chisinau Ministerial Conference and Global Policy Forum.

This inclusion would align the composition of national delegations with the commitments made in the Tirana Communiqué, ensuring that the voices of those who deliver higher education, and who safeguard its academic integrity and societal mission, are meaningfully represented in shaping the future of the EHEA.

We are aware that such a decision needs to be supported by the BFUG, therefore we are also informing the BFUG Secretariat (in copy to this letter) and kindly ask that this request be communicated to the BFUG Plenary members for their consideration.

We remain at your disposal for any discussion on this matter and stand ready to cooperate closely with both Ministries, the BFUG Secretariat, and BFUG Plenary members in the preparation of the 2027 Conference.

Yours sincerely,



John MacGabhann
ETUCE President



Rob Copeland
ETUCE Vice-President,
representing higher
education and
research sectors in
ETUCE Bureau



Jorunn Dahl Norgård
Chair of Higher Education
and Research Standing
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Jelmer Evers
ETUCE
Director