

**Task Force
on the Long-Term Secretariat
13th Meeting**

12th of February 2026

Online

Minutes of the meeting

List of participants

Country/Institution	First Name	Last Name
EUA (Co-Chair)	Michael	Gaebel
Czech Republic	Michal	Karpisek
Czech Republic	Roman	Klepetko
European Commission	Hugo Miguel	Pinto de Abreu
EQAR	Aleksandar	Šušnjar
Iceland (Co-Chair)	Una	Strand Viðarsdóttir
Romania	Luminița	Matei
EHEA Secretariat	Horia	Onița
EHEA Secretariat	Irina	Duma

Hungary, Italy, Kazakhstan, San Marino and Türkiye were absent.

1. Welcome and follow-up of BFUG Board meeting

The EUA Co-Chair welcomed everyone to the online meeting. He gave updates since the last meeting, mentioning the withdrawal of Germany's application to host the EHEA long-term Secretariat. Summarizing the BFUG Board discussions from the 5th of February 2026, he noted that the BFUG Board agreed to propose to the BFUG the EQAR-type financial model of differentiated membership fees.

2. Preparation for the BFUG meeting

The TF agreed to send the concept note and the budget to the BFUG as soon as possible, in order to allow for sufficient preparations. The budget proposal would include a buffer of around 15%, since the initial budget was considered too optimistic and the buffer would allow for covering unexpected costs, the risk of non-payment from some members and allow for building up some reserves.

The Icelandic Co-chair underlined that it should be emphasized to the BFUG that a vote in favor for establishing a long-term secretariat would also imply the commitment to pay the proposed fees. The EUA Co-Chair highlighted that the proposed budget should both be realistic and prove that the financial contribution would not imply an extraordinary financial burden on the BFUG members.

The Czech Republic suggested to also include in the concept note a proposal to have an annual revision of the fees, which would allow for the potential surplus to be used for operational purposes and, therefore, decrease the individual fees if the case.

The Icelandic Co-chair offered to prepare the presentation for the BFUG, based on the report prepared by the Task Force.

Regarding the clarification document provided by the DZS, previously circulated by the Czech Republic to the TF, they underlined that each BFUG member should join a consortium agreement governed by public law, which would resemble the features of an association yet not be considered a private law agreement or establish an association as such.

Romania noted that they would need to consult the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the case of such agreements, and that such a legal arrangement may still not offer a clear solution for the legal basis of transferring public money. Iceland and the European Commission also considered that additional clarifications on the legal basis for transferring funds to the public body were required and that the paper should be more explanatory in this regard.

The EUA Co-Chair also requested to clarify the meaning of the “consortium agreement” in the context of the Czech proposal. The Icelandic Co-chair further noted that the clarification given by the Czech colleagues should come before submitting the documents to the BFUG.

The Task Force decided to send all documents to the BFUG at once, including the Czech Republic’s clarification response and Germany’s withdrawal letter, preferably by Wednesday, the 18th of February. In this case, the proposed concept note would be sent to the TF for feedback on Monday, the 16th of February.

3. Closing of the meeting

The EUA Co-Chair closed the meeting by thanking everyone for their work so far. There would be no other meetings of the TF before the BFUG meeting to be organised in Cyprus, between the 9th-10th of March 2026.