

**Minutes of the  
10<sup>th</sup> Task Force on establishing a long-term Secretariat meeting  
16<sup>th</sup> of December 2026, Copenhagen and online**

**List of participants**

Nr.	NAME	COUNTRY/Organisation
1.	Michal Karpisek	Czech Republic
2.	Michael Gaebel	EUA, Co-chair
3.	Kinga Szuly	European Commission
4.	Hugo Miguel Pinto de Abreu	European Commission (online)
5.	Aleksandar Susnjar	EQAR
6.	Andrea Herdegen	Germany
7.	Una Strand Viðarsdóttir	Iceland, Co-chair
8.	András Báló	Hungary
9.	Luminița Matei	Romania
10.	Horia Onița	EHEA Secretariat
11.	Irina Duma	EHEA Secretariat

Kazakhstan, Italy, San Marino and Türkiye were absent.  
The meeting was organised after the XCVII BFUG meeting in Copenhagen.

**1. Debriefing after the BFUG meeting**

The TF members reflected upon the discussions in the XCVII BFUG meeting held between 15<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> of December in Copenhagen. The TF Co-chairs noted that the BFUG engaged particularly in the following topics:

- i) Financial arrangements and budget, including whether consultative members would pay membership fees (and thus vote), respectively whether to have membership fees for BFUG members equal or in a progressive rate (such as the EQAR model), to ensure financial reserves, and that all members pay, and in what situations and under what conditions temporary non-payment could be tolerated.
- ii) The tenure of the Head of Secretariat, particularly whether the contract would be linked to one BFUG working cycle.

The following was concluded:

- The TF should not address the issue of whether consultative members pay or not, as this should be discussed, if necessary, directly by and in the BFUG.
- Both options for membership fees are presented for the BFUG's decision.
- On the tenure of the Head of Secretariat, the contract should consider national labour law regulations and cover at least two cycles, i.e. when the long-term arrangement would be assessed in 2033.

The TF members suggested also to emphasise that financial contribution would not be a binding condition for BFUG members, yet the 'free rider' dilemma should be further addressed in order to find appropriate incentives. The TF further suggested to clarify the conditions for waiving the payment of membership fees in extraordinary cases or postponing them (through a moratorium) in justified situations. The information on funding, fees and budget should be prepared well in advance to the next BFUG, as this might an important aspect for the go-no-go decision. Attention should be paid to brevity and clarity of the document in order to adequately inform national discussions on the topic.

The European Commission suggested to consider its own financial contribution in view of the greater flexibility that the next Multiannual Financial Framework is expected to provide. As in the current model for Eurostudent, the European Commission might financially support BFUG members unable to pay the membership fee rather than financing the Secretariat through a separate grant. In this case the membership fees proposed should be recalculated to align with this revised financing model.

The TF also reflected on the governance arrangements, noting that the establishment of a Supervisory Board distinct from the BFUG Board appeared necessary. This supervisory board would oversee the financial and organisational matters of the Secretariat, reporting to the BFUG Board which would maintain its current roles. The Supervisory Board could be composed of three members: the Vice Chair, the European Commission and a BFUG member elected by the BFUG.

## 2. **Communication with applicants**

- Regarding the cooperation with shortlisted applicants (Czech Republic, Germany, Romania) the TF agreed that applicants should receive information through the Secretariat on what is expected from them. The TF agreed that at this stage, they would not be allowed to change their proposals fundamentally, in particular regarding their proposed legal format.
- Applicants will be invited to offer more details by the 14<sup>th</sup> of January (within 2-3 pages) on:
  - structure and governance (particularly on national legislation for associations and in the case of the Czech application how to maintain independence);
  - roadmap for establishing the Secretariat;
  - in-kind benefits.

### 3. Communication with the BFUG

The Secretariat will inform BFUG members to send questions in writing through e-mail instead of using the online form. BFUG members will also be invited to share particular issues that the TF should consider, i.e. problems with paying the fees or joining the legal form for the Secretariat.

### 4. Next meetings

The TF agreed on the next meetings of the TF, namely on the 15<sup>th</sup> of January, 21<sup>st</sup> of January and 12<sup>th</sup> of February.

The TF will submit the materials to the upcoming BFUG Board by the 22<sup>nd</sup> of January, focusing on the principles for the budget proposal and preparing the decision-making process for the BFUG meeting in Cyprus.