Minutes of the 18th Task Force on establishing a long-term Secretariat meeting

31st of August 2026, online (15:30 -16:30 CEST)

List of participants

Country/Organisation	Name	Last Name
Czech Republic	Roman	Klepetko
EHEA Secretariat	Horia Serban	Onita
EUA, Co-chair	Michael	Gaebel
European Commission	Hugo	Pinto de Abreu
EQAR	Aleksandar	Šušnjar
Germany	Michaela	Böhme
Hungary	András	Báló
Iceland, Co-chair	Una	Strand Viðarsdóttir
Romania	Luminița	Matei
Project expert (Guest)	Colin	Tück
Türkiye	Aydin	Aslan

The Czech Republic Co-Chair sent their apologies. Italy and Kazakhstan were absent.

1. Welcome and introduction

The TF Co-chairs welcomed TF members for the first TF meeting after the summer break.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Adoption of the 17th Task Force meeting minutes
   Documents: TF_LTS_17_Minutes_23.06.2026

The minutes were adopted without changes.

4. Updates on the BFUG online information session (30.06.2026)
   Documents: Folder including the recording of the meeting, the presentation, Financial Model and Updated Roadmap

Most of the TF members attended the BFUG online information session, with additional information circulated in writing after the online session.

5. Discussion on the Draft Statutes
   Documents: Draft Statutes

The EUA TF Co-chair introduced the Draft Statutes. The European Commission announced that they proposed some small editorial changes directly in the draft on UDrive. The Commission welcomed the document and pointed out to three major pending questions from their side: i) the membership model for the European Commission, ii) the possibilities through which the

Commission could contribute financially (through the payment of fees or through the operational grant), and iii) level of involvement by taking a seat in the Steering Committee, particularly as the competencies of the Committee seemed extensive. The Commission announced that they would formally request a legal analysis of the Statutes and would follow-up with a response on the issues above. On the matter of fees, the EUA TF Co-chair suggested to also investigate the extent to which the Romanian law allows association members to be exempted from paying membership fees or contribute through other ways.

Romania informed that they asked the ministry's legal department for a review as well. They considered that the competencies of the Steering Committee would be too extensive and thus risk creating a new layer between the Secretariat and the BFUG, such as the expectation that the Steering Committee presents reports to the BFUG or receive representation roles. They also emphasised that legal acts on behalf of the Secretariat should be concluded by the Head of Secretariat and that the main task of the Steering Committee should be to oversee the work of the Secretariat.

Romania also asked the rationale for having consultative members with voting rights in the Steering Committee when they do not have voting rights in the General Assembly and do not pay membership fees. Finally, they asked the reason why a chair and treasurer of the Steering Committee would need to be designated by the General Assembly and inquired whether such roles would be needed at all. Finally, they suggested including some particular clauses in the Statutes: a GDPR clause, a clause prohibiting convicted felons to serve in the Steering Committee or be the Head of Secretariat, as well as to include the Romanian courts' jurisdiction over the association.

The Icelandic TF Co-chair responded that the Steering Committee would report on their work, not the Secretariat's, which could even be a one-page report. She also pointed out that the Statutes would not override the Terms of Reference for the Secretariat adopted by the BFUG. Colin pointed out that the intention was to follow the legal requirements where they were necessary as a formality.

The EUA TF Co-chair highlighted that the BFUG or the BFUG Board did not have a legal status in the context of the association and thus the objective of the Statutes would be to ensure that the Secretariat is properly overseen, avoiding concerns that the Secretariat could develop its own dynamics. On concluding legal acts, he pointed out that the Steering Committee would not need to sign too many legal acts themselves, but some examples could be the hiring of the Head of Secretariat. The EUA TF Co-chair added that since the consultative members are involved in the Bologna Process in a meaningful way, the Co-chairs considered that they should remain involved in the association as well. Finally, he pointed out that the chair of the Steering Committee was envisaged to call and chair the meetings and coordinate its' work.

The document remained open for comments until the TF meeting in Bucharest.

6. Discussion on the 19th in-person Task Force meeting agenda
   Documents: TF_LTS_19_Draft agenda

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The Icelandic TF Co-chair suggested additional time in the agenda for discussing the draft Statutes. Romania will follow-up on the situation of the potential visits at the higher education institution(s).

7. Future steps (BFUG online information session on 06.10.2026, BFUG meeting)
   Documents: Issues to be addressed with the BFUG

The discussion would be addressed at the TF meeting in Bucharest.

8. Any other business

There was no other business.

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