

BFUG2 1b  
27 February 2004

**MEETING OF THE BOLOGNA FOLLOW-UP GROUP**

**DUBLIN, 9 MARCH 2004**

The meeting will be held in the Clock Tower, Department of Education and Science, Marlborough Street, starting at 0830 hrs, with the objective of finishing at 1515 hrs. approx.

Draft Annotated Agenda

**Opening of the meeting**

Draft list of participants

**1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

Documents: BFUG2 1a Draft agenda 26 Feb 04  
BFUG2 1b: Draft annotated agenda 27 Feb 04 (this document)

*Proposed action: Adopt the agenda.*

**2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS BFUG AND BOARD MEETINGS**

Documents: BFUG2 2a: Minutes of the BFUG meeting 14 Nov 03  
Letter from the Italian Chair 09 Dec 03 (approval by electronic consultation)  
Minutes of the Board meeting 15 Nov 03 (for information)  
BFUG2 2b: Minutes of the Board meeting 29 Jan 03 (for information)  
Note: Approval of seminars following electronic consultation 3 Feb 03 (Cf. item 4).

*Proposed action: Approve the minutes of the BFUG meeting on 14 Nov 03.*

### **3. BFUG WORK PROGRAMME 2003-2005**

Document: BFUG2 3 19 Feb 04 on the Work Programme

In its meeting on 29 Jan 04, the Board asked the Chair and the Secretariat to continue the development of a draft Work Programme for decision by the BFUG on 9 March. The BFUG Work Programme must relate in the best possible way to the activities proposed in the Berlin Communiqué. It should have a reasonable balance between the various action lines of the Bologna Process, with particular attention to the inclusion of the social dimension as a transversal action line. Members and consultative members of the Bologna Process should initiate the actions forming the Work Programme; in this sense it will be a bottom-up process.

The Board recommended that the BFUG should take responsibility for coordination of projects in areas where joint action is needed, i.e. developing an overarching framework of qualifications and monitoring the ENQA project on quality assurance. The BFUG should also take an overall responsibility for ensuring that new member countries are supported.

*Proposed action: Approve the BFUG Work Programme 2003-2005.*

### **4. BOLOGNA FOLLOW-UP SEMINARS 2003-2005**

Document: BFUG2 4 27 Feb 04 on Seminars + Appendix

The Board has recommended that Bologna Follow-up Seminars may be organised by individual member countries or consultative member organisations in accordance with their own priorities and objectives, provided that the criteria for such seminars are satisfied. A limited number of Bologna Follow-up Seminars will be included in the BFUG Work Programme. Four workshop/seminars for the first half of 2004 have been approved by the BFUG by electronic consultation.

*Proposed action: Approve criteria for Bologna Follow-up Seminars and decide on a list of seminars to be included in the BFUG Work Programme 2003-2005.*

### **5. AN OVERARCHING QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK FOR THE EHEA**

Document: Ref. BFUG2 3 19 Feb 04 on the Work Programme

In the Berlin Communiqué, Ministers asked for the elaboration of an Overarching Framework of Qualifications for the EHEA. Ministers also invited the Follow-up Group to explore whether and how shorter higher education may be linked to the first cycle of the qualifications framework. In the absence of an agreed BFUG Work Programme, Denmark has initiated a programme of action to undertake this task. A short presentation will be made by Denmark on its work to date.

The organisation of the work to establish an Overarching Framework of Qualifications for the EHEA was also discussed by the Board in its meeting on 29 Jan 04. A majority

of Board members expressed the view that this is an area for which the BFUG must take responsibility. The initiative of Denmark in conjunction with the Joint Quality Initiative was welcomed, but the Board emphasised that it should be brought under the umbrella of the BFUG. It was suggested that a BFUG Working Group might be established building on the existing group, but that it should be more inclusive in order to ensure the legitimacy of the process.

Recognising their key role, it is recommended that this Working Group should be chaired by Denmark, along with the chair of the BFUG. In order to maximise efficiency, it is further recommended that no more than 3 additional members of the BFUG should be appointed to the Working Group.

*Proposed action: Appoint a BFUG Working Group, chaired by Denmark, to follow up the work to develop an Overarching Framework of Qualifications for the EHEA and report back to the BFUG. In addition to the Chair of the BFUG, a further 3 members should be appointed to the Working Group.*

## **6. ORGANISATION OF THE BOLOGNA PROCESS STOCKTAKING**

Document: BFUG2 6 27 Feb 04 on Stocktaking

The Board has recommended that, in line with the mandate from the Berlin ministerial conference, the stocktaking process should be carried out under direct supervision of the Bologna Follow-up Group. On the basis of document BFUGB2 3c and discussions in the Board meeting on 29 January, the Board appointed an interim working group to prepare a draft paper on the organisation of the process. The working group met on 17 February. Its recommendations are contained in document BFUG2 6.

*Proposed action: Appoint a BFUG Working Group to take responsibility for the Stocktaking Process and report back to the BFUG.*

## **7. REPORTING TO THE 2005 MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE**

Document: BFUG2 7 26 Feb 04 on Reporting

The Board has recommended that the General Report on BFUG Activities 2003-2005 should be a short report on all activities in the Work Programme, to which recommendations from seminars and reports on the stocktaking and other projects may be appended. This report will be drafted by the Secretariat and submitted to the BFUG for approval.

The Board has further recommended that national reports should be submitted to the BFUG in good time before the Bergen Conference. A common format for the 2005 reports from member countries should be defined, and the Board has asked the Secretariat to produce a draft format, to be submitted to the next Board meeting.

The Board has asked the Chair and the Secretariat to coordinate with the EUA the preparation of the *Trends 2005* report and the reporting to be carried out by the BFUG.

The Board will take responsibility for the preparatory drafting of the Bergen Communiqué.

*Proposed action: Approve the recommendations for reporting to the 2005 Ministerial Conference.*

## **8. SUPPORTING NEW MEMBER COUNTRIES**

The Board has recommended that the BFUG should take an overall responsibility for ensuring that new member countries are supported.

BFUG consultative members have already organised a number of support actions in or for new member countries, and further actions are being planned. BFUG delegates have taken part in these activities, and the Secretariat has been invited to participate in seminars to inform about the Bologna Process. The Chair and the Secretariat will organise an informal pre-meeting in Dublin on 7 March for delegates from the new member countries and other new BFUG delegates. An overview of actions in this field may be included in the General Report on BFUG Activities.

*Proposed action: Advise the Chair and the Secretariat.*

## **9. PROGRESS REPORT FROM ENQA**

The BFUG Chair has invited ENQA to report on progress in the project to develop an agreed set of standards, procedures and guidelines on quality assurance and to explore ways of ensuring an adequate peer review system for quality assurance and/or accreditation agencies or bodies. ENQA will be represented by Christian Thune.

*Proposed action: ENQA may be asked for an updated report to the next BFUG meeting.*

## **10. CONTRIBUTIONS BY THE EU COMMISSION**

### EUROPASS

Document: COM(2003)796 final 17 Dec 03 on EUROPASS  
(available at <http://www.bologna-bergen2005.no/b/hind.htm>)

EUROPASS is intended to function as a framework to which different transparency instruments may be attached, including the Diploma Supplement. In view of the requirement in the Berlin Communiqué to have the DS automatically issued for all degrees in the EHEA by 2005, the implementation of the DS will be part of the stocktaking process. There are still some obstacles to a smooth integration of the DS to the core of the EUROPASS proposal, namely the European CV.

*Proposed action: Consider possible consequences for the BFUG Work Programme.*

### Report on European co-operation in quality assurance

The EU Commission is about to present a report to the EU Parliament and the Council of Ministers on co-operation in quality assurance in higher education, with proposals on how to make European quality assurance more coherent in line with commitments made by Ministers in Bologna, Prague and Berlin. The report may have a direct bearing on the ENQA project and the BFUG Work Programme.

*Proposed action: Consider possible consequences for the BFUG Work Programme.*

### Financing activities of the BFUG Work Programme

Document: SOC/COM 16 Jan 04 on support of Bologna Projects  
(available at <http://www.bologna-bergen2005.no/b/hind.htm>)

The EU Commission is preparing a call for proposals for projects contributing to the Bologna Process, which will also be very relevant for the planning of BFUG activities. Among activities that may be supported are the design of an Overarching Qualifications Framework for the EHEA, the Bologna Stocktaking and the organisation of Bologna Follow-up Seminars.

*Proposed action: Consider possible consequences for the BFUG Work Programme.*

### Promoting Bologna

This initiative is part of the Commission plan *From Berlin to Bergen: The EU Contribution*, presented to the BFUG and Board in Rome. The final version of the document is available at <http://www.bologna-bergen2005.no/b/hind.htm>. The aim is to make the Bologna Process better known and understood by a variety of measures, including the establishment of national teams of Bologna promoters with financial support from the Commission.

In its meeting on 29 January, the Board welcomed EU/Socrates support for nationally driven activities which are in line with the BFUG Work Programme and national Bologna plans/strategies in member countries, and which draw on expertise gained in other countries and in European institutions and organisations participating in the Bologna Process. However, the Board questioned the usefulness of restricting such support to specific instruments like the proposed team of promoters, and of creating new structures at the European level. This has led to changes in the proposal from the Commission.

*Proposed action: Consider possible consequences for the BFUG Work Programme.*

## **11. INFORMATION FROM PARTNERS IN THE BOLOGNA PROCESS**

Documents: BFUG2 11a, EURASHE Working agenda on the Bologna Process  
BFUG2 11b, Contributions by the Council of Europe to the EHEA

*Proposed action: Take note.*

## **12. DATE AND PLACE FOR THE NEXT BFUG MEETING**

*Proposed action: Set date and place for the next BFUG meeting.*

## **13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**