

BFUG3 9
28 September 2004

PROGRAMME OUTLINE FOR THE BERGEN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

1. CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

At the Board meeting on 13 September, the Vice-Chair presented the following programme outline for the Bergen ministerial conference, based on the format of the previous conference in Berlin:

19 May, morning

1. Opening:
 - Minister Cimet (host)
 - EU Presidency, possibly also EU Commission
2. Admission of new members
3.
 - Report of the Bologna Follow-up Group
 - Report from the stocktaking
 - Reports from consultative members, including *Trends IV*
4. Keynote speech

19 May, afternoon

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| Ministers and their advisers discuss the reports, the results of the stocktaking, the further development of the Bologna Process and the draft communiqué | <u>Parallel sessions</u> (Themes to be decided) |
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20 May, morning

1. Reports from the parallel sessions
2. Finalisation and adoption of the communiqué
3. Press conference
(Luncheon and departure)

Norway wants the programme to signal that although the Bologna process is a genuinely European process, it is not inward-looking. This may have consequences for the themes of the parallel sessions. Possible themes include:

- The Bologna Process and the Lisbon/Copenhagen processes
- Quality assurance in a global perspective
- Synergies between higher education and research
- Gender equality in higher education and research

The results of the discussions should be used actively after the conference, but will not form direct inputs to the communiqué.

The social programme will include an excursion on the historic three-masted barque “Statsraad Lehmkuhl” (see <http://www.lehmkuhl.no/eng/index.cfm>) in the evening of 18 May, a conference dinner in the 13th-century Haakon’s Hall (see <http://www.bergen-guide.com/53.htm>) on 19 May and optional excursions following the closing of the conference.

2. 17 MAY IN BERGEN

Preceding the ministerial conference, there will be a Board meeting on 18 May, starting in the morning, followed by a full BFUG meeting after lunch. In this connection BFUG members may wish to arrive early in order to experience the 17 May celebrations in Bergen.

17 May is Norway’s national day, commemorating the signing of the Norwegian constitution and liberation from Denmark in 1814 (see <http://www.bergen-guide.com/341.htm> for more historical background). It is the country’s greatest ceremonial day, with colourful festivities including music and processions of schoolchildren and, in Bergen, the city’s characteristic boys’ brigades (“buekorps”). The celebrations last all day, with the first procession already at 7 a.m. and the main parade normally at 11. For a photographic impression, see <http://www.norphoto.com/r/engl.php>.

Hotel Norge, where the Bologna ministerial conference will take place, is an excellent vantage point for the festivities, and places are reserved years in advance. A number of places have been reserved for luncheon at 12.30, but members aiming to be in Bergen on 17 May should arrive as early as possible due to traffic restrictions. ***BFUG members are specially invited to be present at the 17 May celebrations in Bergen. In order that places may be confirmed at Hotel Norge, members intending to take part are asked to indicate this to the Secretariat no later than 1 December.***