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I am writing to you in your capacity as President of the European Union Council of Ministers to confirm formally the UK's offer to host the 2007 Ministerial Conference in the Bologna Process.

As you may know, UK Ministers Ivan Lewis and Lewis Macdonald, who attended the Berlin Ministerial meeting in September last year, set out the UK's intention to bid to host the 2007 event, building on the success of the Berlin conference and I'm sure the equal success of the Bergen Ministerial Conference in May next year.

The UK welcomes the Bologna process of higher education reform and is committed to working together to build the European higher education area by 2010. We have been pleased to hold a Bologna seminar at Heriot Watt University in July to stress the importance of "Using Learning Outcomes" in the important work we are taking all forward in new degree structures, credit and most importantly in promoting student mobility, a theme which you have rightly emphasised as part of your Presidency. We are also pleased that the European University Association has chosen to hold its pre-Bergen conference in Glasgow at the end of March and start of April next year. We have been pleased to take part in the debate on portability of student support which has been another key part of your presidency. And we have worked closely with our Danish, Irish, Swedish, Latvian and other colleagues in finding ways to develop a European qualifications framework.

We believe that we in the UK have a great deal to offer the debate, and to learn from other countries, on the future of the Bologna process and achieving its aims as we get ever close to 2010. The new higher education area in Europe is taking shape, framed by the priorities we have agreed at La Sorbonne, Bologna, Prague, Berlin and Bergen.

I would therefore like to propose that the 2007 Ministerial meeting be held in London in May 2007. I am copying this letter to the Ministers of other countries in the Bologna process.

I would have great pleasure in inviting you to the 2007 Ministerial Meeting in London.



Charles Clarke

