

Mr. Per Nyborg
Head of the Secretariat of the Bologna
Follow-up Group
Ministry of Education and Research
Oslo
Norway

Brussels, 24 March 2005

Bologna process

Ref : 05-808

Dear Mr Nyborg,

Thank you for your letter (ref: 200406649, 9 March 2005) following our letter (14 October 2004) related to the Bologna process.

EUROCADRES thinks that the realisation of the European higher education area, which is the aim of the Bologna process, is of utmost importance for the development of science and culture. It will be a key contribution to Europe as a knowledge society and should lead to positive consequences for economic growth and for social progress. The Bologna process is a European challenge not only for higher education but also for society as a whole.

EUROCADRES is an organisation with more than 5 million professionals and managers in all countries throughout Europe, in all private and public sectors of industry, public services and authorities. We are recognised as a European social partner by the European institutions. Our membership is highly qualified and we represent people who are particularly interested in higher education and its development. EUROCADRES is very committed to achieve good quality of higher education and to a genuine mutual recognition of qualifications and diplomas through effective instruments.

For this reasons, I confirm our will to take part in the developments related to the Bologna process. Our involvement should contribute to establishing better links with the economic and social environment.

According to your letter and its appendix (criteria for new consultative members and BFUG partners) we understand that the "new consultative members" are "organisations active in higher education or representing higher education institutions or students", and that the "BFUG partners", seen as the stakeholder group, are

"organisations that may contribute to stronger links between higher education and the labour market".

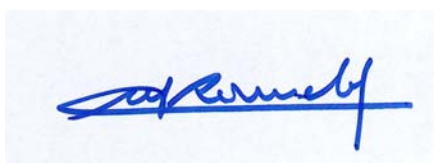
We would like to underline that the position of EUROCADRES corresponds to the "BFUG partners". EUROCADRES fulfils the following criteria:

- higher education is a central field,
- relevance to the Bologna process,
- not a sub-organisation of a member or a consultative member of the BFUG,
- as a European social partner we are a non-governmental organisation.

Our added value, as other "BFUG partners" (who, by definition, are not directly involved in the regular running of higher education), is to facilitate links with industry, the labour market, and the social context. In order to get fruitful contributions from these partners, we would like to stress the need to provide regular information on the various activities of the Bologna process to them, particularly early information concerning the preparation of future initiatives and developments. They should have the opportunity to participate in all relevant meetings and to be associated to the work and the meetings of the BFUG at appropriate times.

We are hoping for a positive reply to our request. We remain at your disposal for any further information you might require. In the coming days we will send you some EUROCADRES contributions concerning quality and accreditation in higher education as well as the Bologna process more generally.

Yours sincerely,



Michel Rousselot
President