

BFUG6 7
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ELECTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS

1. BACKGROUND

The Berlin Communiqué of 19 October 2003 stated that a Board shall oversee the work between the meetings of the Follow-up Group and that the Board will be composed by:

- a) the EU Troika
- b) the Country hosting the next Ministerial Conference
- c) the European Commission
- d) four consultative Members (EUA, ESIB, EURASHE, CoE)
- e) three participating countries elected by the BFUG for one year.

The Bologna Follow-up Group, in its meeting of 17 September 2003 had agreed on the following voting procedures concerning the point e):

- Countries eligible: all countries that expressed formally their candidature, with the exception of the EU troika and of the country hosting the next Ministerial Conference;
- Number of votes: two per country ; if a country sends more than two votes, only the first two votes received in time order will be considered valid;
- It is not allowed to vote for themselves;
- The election will be by simple majority;
- In case of an equal number of votes, the BFUG will go to a second ballot;
- The three countries elected in the Board will not be re-eligible for a second time.

The first group of elected countries should be in charge from October 2003 up to June 2004, the second group from July 2004 up to May 2005.

2. THE BOARD'S MANDATE 2003-2005

The Berlin Communiqué also asked the BFUG in its first meeting after Berlin to further define the responsibilities of the Board and the tasks of the Secretariat. This was done on 14 November 2003:

“The Board supports the Bologna Follow-up Group in its activities and has the mandate to provide efficiency to the management of the Bologna Process, assuring at the same time its continuity. As such, the responsibilities of the Board consist of co-ordinating and monitoring the effective implementation of the work programme.

The following list, which is not exhaustive, illustrates the scope of this responsibility:

- overseeing the preparation of the next Ministerial Conference by means of supporting and coordinating the realisation of the Bologna events, as described and listed in the work programme 2003-2005;

- providing support and assistance to new members as they seek to meet the objectives of the Bologna Process and, at the same time, looking after the effective participation of representatives of the candidate countries in the Bologna events;
- maintaining contacts with ENQA as it undertakes the work defined in the Berlin Communiqué;
- co-ordinating actions for the preparation of the stocktaking exercise for 2005;
- organising Working Groups composed by BFUG members and/or experts on special issues decided by the BFUG.

The BFUG may also delegate to the Board tasks it deems appropriate and necessary to achieve the objectives of the Bologna Process.

In line with these responsibilities, the Board shall prepare issues for the BFUG. If urgent decisions have to be taken on specific matters, the Board will consult through e-mail the BFUG members before taking any decision.”

3. EXPERIENCE FROM PREVIOUS ELECTIONS

Elections in 2003 and 2004 were by e-mail, the first three countries represented were Austria, Belgium, Finland, to be followed by Latvia, Malta, Slovenia. Documents BFUGB3 9/9a (attached) show the procedure and the result of the second election.

By the deadline, only one country had volunteered to stand for election. A plea from the BFUG Chair was needed to bring forward additional candidates. At the same time, questions arose whether an outgoing EU troika member could continue as an elected member and whether an incoming EU troika member could stand for election just before joining the troika.

4. ADJUSTMENTS OF ELECTION PROCEDURES

On the basis of this experience, the Secretariat proposed some adjustments of the election procedures which were approved by the BFUG on 12-13 April 2005: :

- a) The rules for electing Board members should be understood to mean that a country that joins the Board in the capacity of being EU troika member during the period up to the next Ministerial Conference, shall not be elected Board member in this period.
- b) Election of Board members shall be done in the BFUG meeting prior to each new period.
- c) Between Ministerial meetings in 2005 and 2007, the first period will be June 2005 - July 2006, the second period will be August 2006 – Min. Conf. 2007.