

BFUG8 6
April 2006

Bologna Process – Conference of Ministers responsible for Higher Education London May 2007

Introduction

1. This paper invites the Bologna Follow-Up Group (BFUG) to note the latest proposals for the London meeting of Ministers, which take into account suggestions that have already been made by the BFUG and BFUG Board. Comments and suggestions are welcome.

Background: the London Ministerial meeting: overall objectives

2. The conference will take place over one and a half days starting at 9.30am on Thursday 17 May and concluding at lunch-time on Friday 18 May, in the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, Westminster, London. The conference has to satisfy a number of objectives, including:-

- a need to ensure that the momentum is kept going;
- an assessment of how much more needs to be done in order to achieve the objective of creating an EHEA by 2010;
- a review of progress since the last conference;
- agreement on priorities for the next two years;
- a first discussion of what the EHEA might look like post 2010, including the kinds of support structures necessary.

Format of conference:

3. The broad structure of the conference will be on similar lines to the meeting in Bergen. However in response to feedback from the BFUG we are not proposing to repeat the parallel sessions on the first afternoon. Instead we are considering how to make the event more participative by breaking the full meeting into a number of smaller groups for panel discussions.

4. The BFUG has also already agreed that, as with Bergen, the communiqué should be drafted by a small group reporting back to BFUG as necessary. Work on the communiqué will start in the autumn (October 2006).

5. An outline programme for the conference based on these ideas is set out in BFUG8 6(i)

Delegations

6. In May this year we propose to send a letter to Ministers for the

member countries to inform them of the timing and broad outline of the conference. This letter will be for information only and a formal invitation would follow at a later date. BFUG members are asked to provide the Secretariat with contact details for the Minister(s) who will be attending.

Conclusion

7. The BFUG is invited to:

- Consider the objectives for the conference.
- Note the programme and practical arrangements.
- Advise the Secretariat of Ministerial contact details by **1 May 2006**.

Contributions and suggestions can be sent at any time to the Bologna Secretariat at bologna.secretariat@dfes.gsi.gov.uk

Bologna Secretariat
March 2006