

BFUG8 7
April 2006

Letter from Barbara Weitgruber to those countries that had expressed an interest

Dear Colleague,

Following our recent discussion at the Bologna Board meeting on 25 January, I am writing to you to suggest how we might take forward the process for agreeing who should host the Ministers' conference in 2009.

We have received three expressions of interest to host the 2009 ministerial meeting. These are from the Benelux countries, Croatia, and the Slovak Republic (see enclosed copies of the letters).

At our meeting last week, the Board recognised the commitment to the Bologna Process being demonstrated by all those offering to host the 2009 Ministerial event. We are pleased that so many countries have expressed such a positive interest in taking the process forward.

On all previous occasions, those countries offering to host the ministerial conference have managed to reach a decision amongst themselves. As you know, the first Ministerial conference took place in Bologna (EU-country), then in Prague (accession country), next Berlin (EU-country) and most recently in Bergen (EFTA-EEA). The next conference will take place in London (EU) in 2007.

It would be very helpful if you could have a discussion with your colleagues in the first instance, and decide on the further steps among yourselves with a view to reaching a joint decision on who should host the 2009 event.

Based on previous experience and given the spirit of cooperation and collaboration that is at the heart of the Bologna Process, I am sure that also this time the three candidates will manage to find a solution which is agreeable to all concerned, without the need for BFUG to be involved in any decision making process.

We will also ask you to inform briefly on the state of the art at the meeting of the BFUG in April. I look forward to seeing you in Vienna in April and send you my best regards.

Barbara Weitgruber