

Bratislava, 22. 12. 2005

**Bologna Secretariat
in United Kingdom**

The Slovak Republic is among the candidates that submitted its bid to host the 2009 Ministerial conference of countries involved in the Bologna process. This bid is also ensuing from the fact that the Slovak Republic ranks among the countries which entered the Bologna process as the first ones and has fulfilled all the recommendations which were a subject of the Bergen conference of the education ministers in May this year. The bid is also supported by Mr. Ján Figel', European Commissioner for Education, Training, Culture and Multilingualism.

As already mentioned in my letter of 24 November 2005, the Slovak Republic would like to contribute by hosting in 2009 the follow-up meeting of the education ministers within the framework of the Bologna process, to the further implementation of Bologna process challenges. At the same time, this event would be a good opportunity to demonstrate not only the results of the reform process in the field of higher education and science in the Slovak Republic, but also in other areas of social life.

The Slovak party is ready to fulfill the duties ensuing from this bid which you presented to BFUG at the Manchester meeting this year.

The Slovak party is ready to:

- provide administrative and operational support to BFUG, its Board and working groups,
- maintain the BFUG website and archives,
- establish Secretariat and allocate required number of skilled staff to the Secretariat (three at least) for providing all necessary activities associated with BFUG,
- allocate the finances in such amount so that all activities connected with BFUG, including the 2009 Ministerial conference to be hosted by the Slovak Republic, are sufficiently covered. The Slovak party is fully aware of the fact that the anticipated funding by the British party for the entire activity will be almost 300 thousand euros.

To conclude, I wish to confirm once more the bid of the Slovak Republic to organize the Ministerial conference in 2009 within the framework of the Bologna process.

Yours sincerely,



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