

## **BFUG9 4**

12-13 October 2006

### **REQUEST TO JOIN THE BOLOGNA PROCESS: MONTENEGRO**

#### **Introduction**

1. This paper invites BFUG to agree the suggested approach to dealing with the formal request from the Republic of Montenegro to join the Bologna Process.

#### **Background**

2. On 3 June 2006, the Republic of Montenegro formally declared independence from the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro. This followed a referendum on 21 May 2006.

3. On 5 June 2006, the Serbian National Assembly decreed that Serbia was the continuing international personality of the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro and fully succeeded to its legal status. As the successor state, the Republic of Serbia remains a party to all international agreements to which Serbia and Montenegro was a party and a member of all international organisations of which Serbia and Montenegro was a member. The Republic of Serbia therefore remains as the signatory to the Bologna Process.

#### **Request from the Republic of Montenegro to join the Bologna Process**

4. The Minister of Education and Science, Dr Slobodan Backovic, has written to the Secretariat, confirming their interest in becoming a member of the Bologna Process in their own right (copy attached at Annex A) and nominating new Montenegrin representatives to BFUG.

#### **Recommended approach**

5. Since joining the Bologna Process in Berlin in 2003, the higher education systems in Serbia and Montenegro have been treated as separate entities. Separate national reports were produced in 2003 and again in 2005. We therefore have sufficient information about higher education in Montenegro in its own right.

6. On this basis, we recommend that Ministers should formally endorse the application for full membership from the Republic of Montenegro when they meet in London in May 2007. The Republic of Montenegro should not be required to produce any further paperwork in support of their application. Between now and London, Montenegro should be invited to take part in BFUG meetings and other Bologna events, as observers.

#### **Conclusion**

7. BFUG is invited to:

- agree that the request from the Republic of Montenegro to join the Bologna Process should be formally endorsed by Ministers in London
- agree that, in the interim, Montenegro should be invited to take part in BFUG meetings and other events, as observers.

Bologna Secretariat  
September 2006