

BFUGB14 4
23 January 2007

**BOLOGNA PROCESS: LONDON COMMUNIQUÉ AND UPDATE ON
CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION
17-18 MAY 2007**

Introduction

1. This paper asks the Board to note the progress being made with preparations for the London Communiqué and conference. It also invites the Board to offer any comments on the draft discussion paper for the panel sessions that will take place during the London conference and the draft outline for the general report that will be prepared by the Secretariat.

London Communiqué

2. The London Communiqué Drafting Group has now met twice and has started to prepare draft Communiqué text for discussion at the March BFUG.

3. In starting to produce draft text, the Group has considered the comments offered at the last BFUG meeting, text offered by Working Groups and the conclusions from the official Bologna seminars available thus far. The Group has concentrated their efforts on the introductory section of the Communiqué, as later sections will be significantly influenced by the outcome of the stocktaking exercise and final reports from Working Groups.

4. The current draft, together with the timetable for the Group's work, is attached at Annex A. The draft will be circulated to the full BFUG as part of the papers for the March BFUG meeting. The Drafting Group will prepare a further draft for email circulation to BFUG thereafter. The final draft will be discussed at the April BFUG meeting.

Update on preparations for the London conference

5. Project planning for the event continues to progress well:

- The programme has been updated to reflect the comments offered by BFUG (Annex B).
- The conference website is now up and running: <http://livegroup.co.uk/bologna/>
- Formal invitations will be issued by mid February, copied to BFUG for information.

Panel sessions

6. As indicated previously, in order to make the London conference as participative as possible, all delegates will be asked to take part in a small discussion session in the afternoon of the first day. Each group of some 40-60 delegates will be asked to discuss the definitive characteristics of the EHEA. The discussion will be lead by a panel drawn from conference delegates comprising: a Minister; a Rector; a

student; a business representative; and possibly an academic from outwith the EHEA. The consultative members will be asked to provide a Chair and a rapporteur for each of the 6 panels.

7. Each panel session will discuss the same topic, based on the draft paper attached for any comments at Annex C.

Secretariat report

8. In line with previous practice, the Secretariat will prepare a short report for publication on the Bologna Secretariat website, giving an overview of the work of BFUG over the period 2005-2007. An outline draft is attached for any comments at Annex D.

9. Consultative members and the EC will be asked to provide contributions detailing how they have supported the development of the EHEA between 2005-2007. Contributions will be invited **by Friday 9 February**. This timescale will allow contributions to be incorporated prior to issuing the draft report as part of the papers for the BFUG meeting on 5-6 March.

10. Country members will also be given the option of submitting a short contribution to the report, as a means of sharing their experience of implementing Bologna reforms. This offer is in recognition of the fact that there will not be any opportunity to give oral updates on progress at national level during the Ministerial conference.

Conclusion

11. The Board is invited to:

- note the status of the London Communiqué
- offer any comments on the draft paper for the panel discussions at the London conference
- offer any comments on the draft outline for the Secretariat report and note deadline for contributions of **9 February**
- note the progress being made for the London event.

Bologna Secretariat
January 2007

LONDON COMMUNIQUÉ DRAFTING GROUP

Drafting Group Meetings	BFUG/Board meetings	Purpose
	12-13 October 2006 BFUG	Open discussion on the contents of the Communiqué: consider and agree possible priorities; agree composition and timetable for Drafting Group
10 November 2006, Berlin (Birger Hendriks to chair)		Consider feedback from BFUG and develop draft
		Circulate draft to Drafting Group for comment (w/c 20 November)
8 December 2006, London (Peter Greisler to chair)		Consider and agree draft for circulation to Board
	23 January 2007 Board	Discuss draft in preparation for circulation to BFUG
	5-6 March 2006 BFUG	Discuss draft
7 March 2007, Berlin (Peter Greisler to chair)		Discuss feedback from BFUG and prepare revised draft for email circulation to BFUG (allowing all to see comments made)
2 April 2007, Berlin (Birger Hendriks to chair)		Consider feedback from email circulation to BFUG and prepare revised draft
		Circulate revised draft to BFUG for comments
	3 April 2007 Board	
	17-18 April 2007 BFUG	Agree final draft
	17-18 May 2007 Ministerial Conference	Agree London Communiqué

Bologna Process – Draft programme for Conference of Ministers, London May 2007

Timetable	Timings	
16 May		Arrival/informal reception
17 May: first session	9 00 – 10 30	Welcome speeches – from UK, Germany, European Commissioner, Council of Europe (10 minutes each) Keynote speech: Bologna in a global context: future challenges and opportunities for the EHEA. (30 minutes) Short Q&A if time permits
Coffee	10 30 - 11 00	
17 May : second session	11 00 – 12 30	A session on progress made since Bergen including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stocktaking (15 minutes each) • Trends V • Bologna through Student Eyes • General progress report (from the Secretariat covering the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributions from all consultative members • Qualification Framework Working Group • Social Dimension and Data on Staff and Student Mobility Working Group • External Dimension Working Group • EUA project on doctoral studies • ENQA project on European Register of Quality Assurance Agencies) Open discussion (30 minutes)
Lunch	12 30 – 14 00	Separate lunch arrangements for Ministers and other delegates within the QEII
17 May: third session	14 00 – 15 30	Panel discussions: 6 groups of c50: panels to comprise: a Minister; a Rector; a student; a business representative; and an academic from out with the EHEA; a chair (from the consultative member organisations) and a rapporteur.
Coffee	15 30 - 16 00	
17 May: fourth session	16 00 - 18 00	Feedback from the panel discussions and initial discussion of Communiqué
Conf dinner	19 30	
18 May: fifth session	9 00 - 10 00	Keynote speech – responding to the EHEA; future challenges and opportunities from an external perspective (30 minutes) Q&A (30 minutes)
18 May: sixth session	10 00 – 12 00	Final discussion and agreement of the Communiqué
18 May seventh session	12 00 – 12 45	Closing remarks from Benelux Forward look – from UK
Photocall	12 45 – 13 00	
Informal lunch	13 00	

(DRAFT – 8 January 2006)

**CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION
17-18 MAY 2007**

BACKGROUND PAPER FOR PANEL SESSION

Purpose: to identify some of the definitive characteristics of a strong, dynamic, diverse, coherent and attractive European Higher Education Area (EHEA)

Timing: 14:00 to 15 30

Venue: room in QEII conference centre

Format: open, participative discussion session, led by a Chair and a panel comprising a Minister, a Rector, a student, a business representative and [an academic from outwith the EHEA].

Chair: [from Consultative member]

Rapporteur [from Consultative member]

Panel members: to be listed (from delegates)

Each panel member will initially be asked to talk for 5 minutes, offering their views on definitive characteristics of the EHEA.

This will be followed by comments and questions from the floor to panel members.

Based on the discussion, the Chair and Rapporteur will be asked to identify a number of definitive characteristics of a successful EHEA. The outputs from the discussion will be collated with the outputs from the other panel sessions taking place at the same time and posted in summary format on the Bologna Secretariat website. The summary will provide the context for the future work of BFUG.

Background to discussion on the definitive characteristics of a strong, dynamic, diverse, coherent and attractive EHEA

When the European Ministers of Higher Education met in Bologna in June 1999, they agreed to work collaboratively to create a European Higher Education Area by 2010. They identified the following 6 Action Lines to help realise that vision:

1. Adoption of a system of easily readable and comparable degrees
2. Adoption of a system essentially based on two cycles
3. Establishment of a system of credits
4. Promotion of mobility
5. Promotion of European cooperation in quality assurance
6. Promotion of the European dimension in higher education.

Three further Action Lines were introduced, when the Ministers met in Prague in May 2001. These are:

7. Lifelong learning
8. Higher education institutions and students
9. Promoting the attractiveness of the EHEA.

A tenth Action Line was added in Berlin in September 2003:

10. Doctoral studies and the synergy between the EHEA and the European Research Area.

Essentially, these Action Lines describe processes, primarily to be taken at national level, to underpin the realisation of the EHEA. Working toward these objectives, in line with the inter-governmental, partnership approach characterised by the Bologna Process, has resulted in substantial changes at national and institutional level to create a series of independent, but increasingly compatible, higher education systems.

These Action Lines are increasing the quality of European higher education, supporting curricula reform, increasing the autonomy for higher education institutions, and creating greater openness and transparency through compatible qualifications frameworks based on robust quality assurance systems. Taken together, these Action Lines are increasing the attractiveness and competitiveness of European higher education.

Now that we are approaching 2010 and the achievement of these individual objectives, there is a need to define our overall vision for the EHEA in a more coherent and outcome focused way. This vision should take cognisance of the fact that higher education systems will continue to need to adapt and develop in response to new societal, economic and global demands, if we are to ensure the continuing attractiveness and competitiveness of European higher education beyond 2010.

Definitive characteristics of the EHEA might include:

- good governance/autonomous universities
- an embedded quality improvement culture
- relevant curricula, leading to highly valued qualifications, recognised throughout the EHEA and beyond
- increased student and staff mobility
- an increasingly strong link between higher education and research
- effective knowledge transfer and links with business.

Identifying the definitive characteristics of a successful EHEA at this stage will help set the context for the remainder of the Bologna Process and inform discussions about how we might work together in future to maintain the strength and coherence of the EHEA.

Bologna Secretariat
April 2007

Secretariat report: from Bergen to London

Draft outline

- Context for, and key achievements of, the Bologna Work Programme 2005-2007
- Activities of BFUG/Board
- Key outcomes from Bologna Seminars (half page summary of each and link to website and full documentation)
- Key outcomes from Working Groups, ENQA and EUA projects (half page summary of each and link to website and full documentation)
- Contributions from the EC and Consultative members (max one page each, plus links as required)
- Contributions from country members (optional) – to share good practice in implementing Bologna reforms (max of half page each, plus links as required)
- Sign off from UK Secretariat