

Vienna, February, 2008

Dear chair of the Bologna Follow up Group,  
dear members of the Secretariat,

following the request of the Bologna Secretariat of January 21, 2008, we, Ministers in charge of higher education in Austria and Hungary, would like to reconfirm our commitment already expressed by our Bologna Follow up Group delegates at the end of last year, to host the anniversary celebration Conference in 2010. The main aim is to discuss the overall evaluation of the Bologna-Process as stated in the London Communiqué ("Building on previous stocktaking exercises, trends, and Bologna with Students eyes, we invite BFUG to consider for 2010 the preparation of a report including an independent assessment, in partnership with the consultative members, evaluating the overall progress of the Bologna Process across the EHEA since 1999.") and to celebrate what we have already achieved.

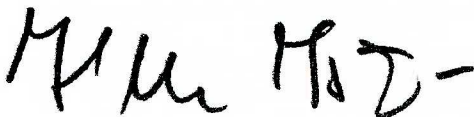
In the true spirit of Bologna, we propose to co-host the conference on March 11 – 12, 2010 in Budapest and Vienna together with EUA and ESU.

Higher education institutions, staff and students, all together, have made an impressive contribution to the implementation of the European Higher Education Area and will continue to do so. The extraordinary success of the Bologna Process has only been made possible by the close cooperation of all actors. It is therefore fitting that EUA and ESU will hold their respective conference along with the Anniversary Celebration Conference in Vienna.

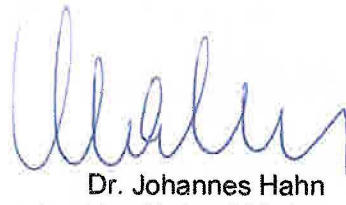
The idea for the Anniversary Celebration Ministerial Conference is to host the first session of the ministerial conference in Budapest; followed by a festive dinner on a nostalgia train to Vienna, and a ball to celebrate our achievements, together with all participants of the EUA and ESU conferences as well as our colleagues who have signed the Bologna Declaration in 1999 in the Imperial Palace in Vienna. On March 12, 2008 the second part of the conference will take place in Vienna.

Conference facilities and hotel capacity have already been secured for the proposed dates.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. István Hiller  
Minister for Education and Culture  
Republic of Hungary



Dr. Johannes Hahn  
Austrian Federal Minister of  
Science and Research