

**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF THE BOLOGNA FOLLOW-UP GROUP
BLED, 9 JUNE 2008**

Golf Hotel, 9 am to 4 pm

Draft minutes

Welcome and introduction to the meeting

1 Adoption of the agenda

Documents: BFUG Board (SI) 17_1a [draft agenda]
BFUG Board (SI) 17_1b [draft annotated agenda]

Adopted with slight change of order (French Presidency points before discussion on Sarajevo meeting).

2 Minutes of the last Board meeting, Ljubljana, 16 January 2008

Documents: BFUG (SI) 13_2b [BFUG Board 16 minutes]

Minutes were approved.

3 Information from the Presidency

Chair refers to the Bologna 2020 seminar, Ghent, 19-20 May 2009, which provided a useful input for the Sarajevo extraordinary BFUG meeting.

Council of Europe reports on the advancements of the Qualifications Framework Coordination Group.

Meeting schedule:

- 21 May : meeting QF coordination group, Brussels
- Montenegro : beginning July
- Yerevan : beginning September

Council of Europe expresses concern about the limited amount of input from the national level. A new request for information about the national situation has been made for which the reactions are to be expected by the beginning of July. If the number of responses do not improve, this should possibly be discussed at the Paris BFUG meeting. It has to be observed that an additional problem consists in the fact that in many countries the responsible persons for the implementation of the parallel EU EQF are mainly vocational education and training specialists. The European Commission agrees that this should be an agenda point and that information on where individual countries actually stand is important. Moreover, the stocktaking will also provide information on the implementation of the national qualifications frameworks

EUA proposes that the link between quality assurance and qualifications frameworks should be reinforced as quality assurance should rely on the standards offered by the qualifications framework. Portugal agrees with this vision.

Secretariat of the Bologna Follow-up Group

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Eurashe points out that the situation also depends on the individual countries. Some are more advanced in implementation. This can also be noticed with EQAR. Only half of the Bologna countries are members.

Council of Europe expects that 2010 as a deadline for putting in place national qualifications frameworks could have been too ambitious. Maybe the Ministers should decide at the Leuven/Louvain-la-Neuve meeting to give the countries 2-3 years more time.

Vice-Chair points out that politicians are not enough convinced of the necessity to implement the qualifications framework. They see EQF and QF for EHEA and EU directive as one package. We need to address this problem.

The Bologna Secretariat remarks that the implementation of the qualification frameworks for higher education in some countries is held back by the difficulties for the implementation for vocational training. The Vice-Chair agrees that EQF levels 5 and 4 pose most problems.

European Commission proposes to concentrate on implementation for higher education first and provide information on progress for higher education (only) on the Bologna website. We could think of a kind of template with concrete questions on descriptors, ECTS credit ranges, etc. It should moreover be made visible that the implementation of the qualifications framework is work in progress.

4 Preparation of next regular BFUG meeting, Paris, 14-15 October 2008

Documents: BFUG Board (SI) 17_5 [provisional agenda Paris BFUG]

The Board commented on agenda for next regular BFUG meeting taking into account that the agenda for Paris can only be finalised after Sarajevo.

A point on qualifications frameworks to be added to the provisional agenda. ESU wonders why the Bologna beyond 2010 point precedes the other work programme action lines. These action lines can serve as an input for Bologna Beyond 2010. Chair and Bologna secretariat explain that for work programme action lines a written update will be sufficient.

Incoming Presidency announces that Minister Pécresse will not speak during the meeting but will have a meeting with Bologna experts during lunchtime/cocktail. Bosnia and Herzegovina points out that minutes of the Sarajevo meeting need to appear on the agenda; especially because of the reporting on the outcome of elections for the advisory board for the independent assessment of the Bologna Process.

The issue of the next Secretariat and next regular Ministerial meeting should be added under point 8. Chair expects that the present Secretariat will be asked to continue for pragmatic reasons as Hungary and Austria are not prepared to set up a Secretariat, but could second national experts to the Secretariat. The point of a possible provisional arrangement for the Secretariat should be made visible at the Sarajevo meeting.

It was strongly recommended to keep the discussion on future arrangement of secretariat (after 2010) separated from that of a possible provisional arrangement.

5 Information from the incoming Presidency

Calendar of events

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Quality assurance conference, Strasbourg : 9-10 September

Mobility conference, Nancy : 4-5 November

Indicator conference, Nice, 13-14 December

The Bordeaux EU informal Council of 25-26 November will also include agenda points on higher education, in particular the "charter" (will be renamed) for lifelong learning in higher education.

6 Preparation of extraordinary BFUG meeting on Bologna Beyond 2010, Sarajevo, 24-25 June 2008

Documents: BFUG Board (SI) 17_4a [discussion paper "Bologna 2020"]
BFUG Board (SI) 17_4b [Sarajevo draft programme]
BFUG Board (SI) 17_4c [information on working groups]
BFUG Board (SI) 17_4d [information for working group chairs]

Practical information

Bosnia and Herzegovina presents state of affairs. Up to now 35 countries registered of which one needs visa (Georgia).

Delegations will have to take a taxi from the airport to the hotel (average price: € 10 or 20 convertible marks)

Bologna 2020 paper

The Bologna 2020 paper functions as background paper *but will not be discussed as such*, as it is still very much "work in progress". While in this stage the document has integrated elements from the Bologna Seminar in Ghent, more input is needed from the Sarajevo BFUG meeting, especially in terms of focus and priorities. Another important input will come from the EUA meeting early July and from contributions of other BFUG members. The Sarajevo meeting therefore is structured in such a way as to give BFUG members time and opportunity for genuine discussion on the core political issues, i.e. the challenges the EHEA will be faced with in the years to come and how the specific European response to these could look like. After Sarajevo a first draft of the 2009 BFUG report on the future of the Bologna Process will be produced, which will be discussed at the BFUG meeting in Paris on 14-15 October 2008. Eventually the core messages of the report will be formulated in a political way to feed into the Leuven/Louvain-la-Neuve Ministerial Communiqué.

EUA and the European Commission have suggestions for reformulation of certain paragraphs which will be included by the Secretariat before sending the document out to BFUG as background document for Sarajevo.

Structure of discussions

For the parallel brainstorming sessions, the participants of the BFUG meeting will be divided into three groups, chaired by Věra Šťastná (Czech Republic), Sjur Bergan (Council of Europe) and Torben Kornbech Rasmussen (Denmark) respectively.

The brainstorming sessions on existing action lines and new challenges will use the same methodology to reach a prioritisation of action lines and challenges and to identify the corresponding key measures. At the beginning of the first session, participants will be asked to write down the *major challenge* they see on the way to realising the EHEA *within the existing Bologna action lines*, as well as the *measures* they propose to tackle this challenge. On the basis of the input given by the participants, each working group will then identify *three priorities* among the challenges related to the existing action lines, and for each of them propose adequate solutions and measures. In the same way, the second and third sessions will seek to identify and prioritise *new challenges* for the EHEA in the next decade as well as the solutions and key measures required.

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The Secretariat is asked to include the concrete steps in the brainstorming discussions in the information for participants and to adapt the information for the chairs of the working groups accordingly. They will also prepare a template for reporting on the working group sessions and a form to fill out by each participant at the start of the brainstorming sessions.

7 Any other business

Council of Europe announces that San Marino is preparing their national report in view of the application to the Bologna Process.

Portugal provides information on the ECTS seminar, Porto, 19-20 June 2008.

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