

Working Group 3

Chair: Sjur Bergan

Secretariat: Cornelia Racké

OUTCOME OF DISCUSSION ON SUPPORT STRUCTURES (WG SESSION IV)

Ministerial meetings

After 2010, ministerial meetings should be held in:

2012, 2015 (mid-term evaluation), 2018, and 2020

Chairing of the process:

- chairing by participating countries (not only EU countries)
- rotation
- a majority of the WG participants were in favour of co-chairing but the question remained how to identify the co-chairs

Board:

- The Board should be maintained.
- The terms of references should be updated but the Board should keep the function of preparing BFUG meetings, providing advice etc.
- A quota for non-EU countries should be introduced.

BFUG

- Active participation is responsibility of countries;
- Secretariat and Chair should encourage active participation of all countries, not only in BFUG, but also in working groups and in the organisation of seminars.
- It is important that BFUG members consult well at home, which is why documents need to be circulated well in advance.
- Need to follow-up actively countries that do not participate in the BFUG over a period of time.
- Size: composition of delegations should reflect different needs for expertise and competence; delegations should be as small as possible (try to have no more than two representatives per country or consultative member)

Secretariat

- The need for a secretariat was confirmed.
- There needs to be a link to the next host country /countries.
- The group agreed that it would be beneficial if it would be more international, which raises issue of funding; also legal issues: who is the employer etc.
- There also is an issue of continuity.
- It was proposed to work with "staggered" periods (partially overlapping mandates rather than complete change-over every two or three years).