

Report to the 14th meeting of the BFUG (14/15 October 2008, Paris)

1. This report informs the BFUG on the developments concerning EQAR since the BFUG meeting on 13/14 March 2008 in Ljubljana. Lesley Wilson, President of the EQAR Executive Board, will present the report at the meeting and be available for questions.

I. Membership development and General Assembly

2. EQAR likes to thank the Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina for the support received in organising the 1st EQAR General Assembly in conjunction with the extraordinary BFUG meeting.

3. About 40 participants, including representatives of 26 EQAR members (18 governments, 2 social partners and 4 founding members) and members of EQAR's statutory bodies, attended the 1st EQAR General Assembly on 25 June 2008 in Sarajevo. The General Assembly adopted the EQAR Appeals Procedure, the budgets for 2008 and 2009, and a Mission Statement. The proposed Procedures for Applications were discussed (see below).

4. Bosnia and Herzegovina, Denmark, Hungary and Norway joined EQAR as Governmental Members before the 1st General Assembly; Ireland joined in August. Thus, EQAR now has 24 Governmental Members.

5. The next EQAR General Assembly will be held in spring 2009.

See also:

<http://www.eqar.eu/association/general-assembly.html#c23>

<http://www.eqar.eu/association/members.html>

II. Development and finalising of EQAR Procedures for Applications

6. The EQAR Register Committee convened for its first official meeting on 13 May 2008 in Brussels. The Register Committee discussed the EQAR Procedures for Applications and agreed on a proposal to be referred to the General Assembly for consultation.

7. The proposed Procedures for Applications met with general approval at the General Assembly meeting in Sarajevo. The proposal was referred back to the Register Committee with some comments and suggestions.

8. The Register Committee subsequently adopted the final Procedures for Applications. EQAR members were informed via email about the finalisation of the Procedures for Application and how the comments and suggestions made by the General Assembly were taken into consideration.

9. The Procedures for Applications were published together with the Appeals Procedure and a Guide for Applicants on 8 August 2008.

See also:

<http://www.eqar.eu/home.html#c305>

<http://www.eqar.eu/application.html>

III. Applications for inclusion on the register

10. EQAR has been accepting applications for inclusion on the register since the publication of all relevant documents on 8 August. EQAR members were informed respectively. A press release was published to inform the wider public. Furthermore, the Founding Members informed their national and local member organisations through their usual channels.

11. Friday 3 October 2008 was the deadline for the first round of applications. By the deadline, ten applications have been received. The Register Committee will consider those at its 2nd meeting, taking place on 22/23 November 2008 in Budapest (in conjunction with the European Quality Assurance Forum).

12. The next deadline for applications will be in early 2009, depending on the exact date of the following Register Committee meeting.

IV. Information and public relations

13. The full EQAR website (<http://www.eqar.eu>) has been launched on 1 June 2008. It has been gradually updated and extended since, now comprising basic information about EQAR for different target groups, a description of EQAR's structure and complete information for applicant quality assurance agencies.

14. A leaflet containing key information about EQAR's mission and objectives, its role in the European Higher Education Area and how EQAR works will be delivered soon. It addresses an audience with little or no prior knowledge about EQAR.

15. Both following the Founding Assembly in March and following the official opening for applications in August, EQAR received some coverage by print and online media, including for example European Voice, CNN.com, Times Higher Education Supplement, University World News and further non-English-speaking media.

See also:

http://www.eqar.eu/fileadmin/documents/eqar/press/EQAR_PressRelease.pdf

<http://www.eqar.eu/home/press-release-11-august-2008.html>

04/10/2008