

Ján Figel'—Commissioner for Education, Training, Culture, and Youth

## CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Bologna Ministerial

Leuven and Louvain-la-Neuve, 29 April 2009

Closing remarks

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[Greetings]

These two days in Leuven and Louvain-la-Neuve have once again shown the strengths of the Bologna Process: it is a voluntary process, led by governments who are in charge of their national education and training systems, but is developed and implemented in close cooperation with higher-education institutions, staff, students and other stakeholders.

I particularly welcome the adoption of a mobility target for the year 2020: it is ambitious but realistic and it will help us to focus our mobility policies at European, national and institutional levels.

I am also pleased with the forward-looking formulation in the Communiqué regarding transparency tools. The Commission will cooperate with the Bologna Follow-up Group in the monitoring and reporting process.

We have learned from the various reports presented yesterday that, in spite of the considerable achievements, a lot remains to be done.

I am thinking in particular of providing qualifications that enable graduates to deal with future challenges, of increasing mobility opportunities, and of making European higher education even more attractive, both in Europe and in other parts of the world.

The current crisis gives us enough reasons for concern, but every cloud has a silver lining. The smart thing to do is to use the crisis as an opportunity to redouble our efforts and implement the remaining reforms rapidly and consistently.

I think that in Leuven yesterday and here in Louvain-la-Neuve today we have laid the ground for a successful second decade of the Bologna Process.

I want to assure you of the European Commission's continuing support. Less than one year from now, in Budapest and Vienna, you will be able to study the results of the Independent Assessment of the Bologna Process which the Commission has commissioned, in close cooperation with the Bologna Follow-up Group.

I wish to congratulate our hosts from Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxemburg and the Czech Presidency on this successful conference and I look very much forward to the Bologna Policy Forum later today.