

## Report to the Bologna Follow-Up Group (BFUG)

24/25 August 2010 meeting

1. This report aims to update the BFUG on the activities of EQAR since the last BFUG meeting on 19 February 2010.

### **EQAR General Assembly, 19 February 2010**

2. The EQAR General Assembly convened on 19 February 2010, immediately after the last BFUG meeting. The General Assembly took note of the Annual Report 2009. The printed report was distributed at the Bologna Ministerial Anniversary Conference in Budapest and Vienna, March 2010. It was also distributed to all EQAR members, registered agencies, European and national stakeholder organisations.

3. The General Assembly considered the preliminary accounts of the financial year 2009. The final accounts were approved by electronic ballot in May 2005 after having been audited externally.

See also:

[http://www.eqar.eu/fileadmin/documents/eqar/information/eqar\\_annualreport09.pdf](http://www.eqar.eu/fileadmin/documents/eqar/information/eqar_annualreport09.pdf)

### **Changes in EQAR's governing bodies**

4. The General Assembly approved the second Register Committee, which took office on 1 July 2010. Most members were re-nominated for a second term. For the composition of the Committee, see Annex 1.

5. The Chair of the first Register Committee, Mr Justice Bryan McMahon, was not available for a second term. The Register Committee elected Kjell Frønsdal as its new Chair. Mr Frønsdal is a judge of the Gulating Court of Appeal in Bergen (Norway) and the former chair of the appeals board of the Norwegian Agency for Quality Assurance in Education (NOKUT).

6. The General Assembly elected the second Executive Board, which took office on 1 March 2010. Andrea Blättler succeeded Bruno Carapinha on the Board as representative of ESU. All other members of the Board were re-elected (see Annex 1).

7. According to the agreed rotation principle, Andreas Orphanides (EURASHE) took over the function of President of the Executive Board.

See also:

<http://www.eqar.eu/association/executive-board.html>

<http://www.eqar.eu/about/register-committee.html>

## Quality assurance agencies admitted to the Register

8. At its meeting of 15 May 2010 the Register Committee considered four new and one deferred application for inclusion on the Register. As a result, two agencies were newly admitted to the Register:

Agency for Quality Assurance through Accreditation of Study Programmes (AQAS)

Evaluation Agency Baden-Württemberg (evalag)

The Register now includes 19 quality assurance agencies operating in 20 European countries.

9. Three applications were deferred, pending further clarifications or additional representation from the applicants. They will be considered at the Register Committee's next meeting on 13 November 2010.

10. The deadline for applications by quality assurance agencies to be considered at this meeting is 31 August 2010.

See also:

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

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

11. The Register Committee is preparing a summary report on its first two years of operation. The report will follow up the report of October 2009 and will be available by the end of August.

## External evaluation of EQAR

12. In their London and Leuven/Louvain-La-Neuve Communiqués, ministers had asked for EQAR to be evaluated externally after having operated for two years. Following up the initial discussions at its Stockholm meeting (September 2009), the General Assembly discussed and agreed upon initial plans for the external evaluation in February 2010.

13. The external evaluation is intended to demonstrate accountability towards EQAR's stakeholders. It will be improvement-oriented and help EQAR develop. The intention is to have a final report before the 2012 Ministerial Summit.

14. The evaluation will analyse the initial impact of EQAR and the fitness for purpose, efficiency and effectiveness of its organisational and operational structures, in the light of the mission and objectives set out in EQAR's statutes, the E4 Group report to the London Summit and the ministerial communiqués.

15. The evaluation will be coordinated by a Steering Group working under the auspices and with the support of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA, USA). The Steering Group comprises of:

- Judith Eaton, president of CHEA (Chair)
- Jan Schreiner Levy, Norwegian Ministry of Higher Education

- Norman Sharp, former director of QAA Scotland
- Martina Vukasović, Centre for Education Policy

16. It is the Steering Group's responsibility to agree the Terms of Reference for the evaluation with EQAR and to appoint an independent evaluation panel that will carry out the actual evaluation.

17. The General Assembly of EQAR is currently being consulted on draft Terms of Reference that have been discussed with the Steering Group. It is anticipated that this process will be finalised by October. The Terms of Reference will then be sent to the BFUG.

18. EQAR has formed a Self-Evaluation Group to plan and coordinate the self-evaluation process. Further information is included in the letter to BFUG members of 24/7/2010.

### **First Joint Informal Meeting of EQAR bodies**

19. On 10/11 June 2010, members of the Executive Board, the Register Committee and the Appeals Committee convened for a first Joint Informal Meeting, providing an opportunity to discuss matters of common concern.

20. A range of issues were addressed in the meeting, including the upcoming external evaluation of EQAR. Depending on the budgetary situation, similar meetings are anticipated to be organised annually or biennially in order to enhance internal communication and coordination.

*30/7/2010 – CT*

## Annex 1: Governing Bodies

(as of 1 July 2010)

### Register Committee

**Kjell Frønsdal (Chair)**, judge of the Gulating Court of Appeal, former chair of the appeals board of the Norwegian Agency for Quality Assurance in Education (NOKUT), Bergen

**Lucien Bollaert (Vice-Chair)**, Member of the Executive Board, Accreditation Organisation of the Netherlands and Flanders (NVAO), Den Haag

**Christoph Anz**, Head of Education Policy Unit, BMW, München

**Gertie De Fraeye**, Master Student, University of Gent

**Henrik Toft Jensen**, former Rector, Roskilde University

**Dáire Keogh**, Director of Quality Promotion, St Patrick's College, Dublin

**Dorte Kristoffersen**, Associate Vice-President, Accreditation Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC), San Francisco

**Mindaugas Misiūnas**, Director, Kaunas College of Higher Education

**Júlio Pedrosa de Jesus**, Senior Researcher, former Rector, University of Aveiro

**Mala Singh**, Centre for Higher Education Research and Information, Open University, Milton Keynes (UK)

**Tanel Sits**, Educational Policy Officer, Federation of Estonian Student Unions (EÜL), Tallinn

### Executive Board

**Andreas Orphanides (President)**, Vice-President, EURASHE

**Emmi Helle (Vice-President)**, Secretary General, ENQA

**Lesley Wilson (Vice-President)**, Secretary General, EUA

**Andrea Blättler (Treasurer)**, Academic Affairs Committee, ESU

### Appeals Committee

**Jürgen Kohler (Chair)**, Professor of law, Greifswald University (Germany)

**Stephan Neetens**, former member of the Bologna Process Committee, ESU

**Ossi Lindqvist**, former chair of the Finnish Higher Education Evaluation Council (FINHEEC)

**Thierry Malan (Deputy chair)**, former General Inspector, Inspectorate for Education and Research (France)

**Geri Bonhof (Deputy member)**, President of the Executive Board, Hogeschool Utrecht

**Inge Jonsson (Deputy member)**, former Rector of Stockholm University