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**Report of the first meeting of the ad hoc WG on the Third cycle**

After the BFUG meeting in Nicosia, where a proposal for Terms of Reference for an ad hoc WG on the Third cycle was inserted in the agenda but not discussed, and after a call from the Secretariat for countries interested in such an ad hoc WG, the three countries[[1]](#footnote-1) candidate for co–chairing the WG (Italy, Romania and Spain) agreed on the organisation of a meeting[[2]](#footnote-2) with all interested countries, organisations and institutions. The main aim of the meeting was:

* To discuss the proposed ToR for an ad hoc WG to improve the proposal to be presented at the next BFUG in Dublin;
* To share views on a working paper[[3]](#footnote-3) to be used as a back up document to follow up the discussion in the ad hoc WG.

The participation was very varied, 15 out of 19 interested countries/organisation and the Secretariat and the discussion is resulted in the new proposal of ToR at the attention of the BFUG Board, the chairing team of the WG “Structural Reforms” and of the BFUG. It was explained from the beginning to all participants that the existence of the ad hoc WG and its ToR depended on the endorsement of the BFUG. Nevertheless, the attempt to open the discussion on a topic highly prioritised in the Bucharest Communiquè as early as possible was very much appreciated.

As the specific tasks of the ad hoc WG still needed to be discussed and approved, the chairing team concentrated its efforts on the first two tasks, mainly referring to collection of information and mapping exercise. Once they will be completed, they will ensure the basis on which further work should be grounded. In this direction, a working meeting with the European Commission and EUA to compile all the information available took place in Bruxelles on the 21st of January.

The working method agreed is that each country co-chairing the ad hoc WG will steer the work in a group of tasks, according to the following:

* Italy, tasks n.1, n.2 and n.3;
* Romania, tasks n.4 and n.5;
* Spain, tasks n.6 and n.7.
* Task n.8 is considered as a transversal issue.

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| Italy | Romania | Spain |
| Marzia Foroni  Nicola Vittorio | Cezar Haj | Gloria Molero Martín-Portugués |

1. Denmark and EUA withdrew their candidatures. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Rome, 10th and 11th December 2012 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. It is not meant to be a final report from the group but a support to follow up the work. Reporting will be done through the WG “Structural Reforms”. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)