|  |
| --- |
| *Translation for courtesy*  */ EN translation*  Paris, November 14th 2014  Dear Minister, dear colleague, |
| The building up of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) is a paramount objective for France.  Indeed, as early as 1998, France, together with Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom, was calling on other European countries and universities to work all together in order to create a “Europe of knowledge”, in a text which became “the Sorbonne Statement”. This European Higher Education Area which emerged since Bologna in 1999 and is now officially launched, does exist to-day and is stirring up a genuine interest in the rest of the world. We can be proud, all together, of the reforms implemented throughout our European continent, and based on European principles and tools agreed on and shared by the 47 participating countries.  We are willing to keep on developing further this European area of mobility and cooperation, bringing essential democratic values. To do so, it is necessary to deepen our reforms and to constantly adapt our European higher education to the major challenges of society and economy, in particular those dealing with digital education and lifelong learning.  Therefore France reaffirms its full commitment to work further ahead and strengthen up the European Higher Education Area. To-day, France is applying for organizing the ministerial Conference in 2018, while ensuring, after Armenia, the responsibility of the “Bologna Secretariat”.  I’m sending you all my best wishes for a great and successful Conference that you will be organizing in Yerevan, next May 14th and 15th 2015.  Yours faithfully,  **Najat Vallaud-Belkacem**  Minister for Education,  Higher Education and Research  **Minister Armen ASHOTYAN**  Minister for Education and Science  Republic of Armenia |