

Ministry for National Education, Higher Education and Research

The Minister

Paris, January 9th 2015

Dear Minister, dear colleague

Allow me first of all, at this beginning of the year, to send you my best wishes for 2015. I hope that this new year will enable us to go on strengthening our cooperation, in particular in the framework of the Bologna Process, during the ministerial Conference that you're organizing in May in Yerevan.

It learnt with much interest about the application from Georgia willing to organize the 2018 ministerial Conference within the framework of the Bologna Process, and to take over the « Bologna Secretariat » for the upcoming 2015-2018 period. I also noted that Georgia did not exclude to participate to a joint international Secretariat.

It is my great honour to inform you that France confirms its application to organize this 2018 Ministerial Conference, and to take over the "Bologna Secretariat" following the Armenian mandate.

As I want to create the best conditions possible to take the European higher education area further, I have agreed on the principle of an international, robust and dynamic, independent and neutral "Bologna Secretariat". Based on a team of European experts, supported by willing countries involved in this grand Europe of higher education, this Secretariat that Georgia would of course be invited to join, should it wish so, will vouch for the follow-up of this strong intergovernmental Process of forty-seven countries.

Because real opportunities for a dialogue in international events should be guaranteed and cultural and linguistic diversity ensured, interpretation arrangements planned for this ministerial Conference will include five languages, that is to say, English, French, German, Russian and Spanish.

I wish therefore to reaffirm my full commitment to take up this responsibility and to work for the further development of the European higher education area.

Yours faithfully,

Najat Vallaud-Belkacem

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