



BOLOGNA PROCESS OFFICIAL SEMINAR

**The Cultural Heritage and Academic Values
of the European University
and the Attractiveness of the European Higher
Education Area**

ORGANIZED BY THE HOLY SEE

IN COLLABORATION WITH:

ASSOCIATION OF RECTORS OF PONTIFICAL UNIVERSITIES

PONTIFICAL ACADEMIES OF SCIENCES

UNESCO-CEPES

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION



30 March – 1 April 2006

Place: New Synod Hall, Vatican City

Special Events: Visit to the Sistine Chapel and Vatican Museum,
Concert at the Basilica of St. Mary Major and Conference Dinner

More about the Seminar

The Holy See joined the Bologna Process at the Conference of European Ministers Responsible for Higher Education in Berlin (September, 2003). Within the framework set out by the Bologna Follow-up Group (BFUG) to broaden specific themes inherent in the Bologna Process, the Holy See, through the Congregation for Catholic Education, is hosting a conference on *The Cultural Heritage and Academic Values of the European University and the Attractiveness of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA)*. The meeting is organized in collaboration with the Association of Rectors of the Pontifical Roman Universities, the Pontifical Academies of Science, UNESCO-European Centre for Higher Education (UNESCO-CEPES), and the Council of Europe.

Requests by representatives of different countries and international organizations encouraged this endeavour to explore main features and approaches to enhance the attractiveness of the European university [having in mind all types of higher education institutions]. Because of its own educational and cultural heritage, the Holy See is well equipped to take this initiative and this way also to reaffirm its commitment and support to the Bologna Process.

The selection of the content and format for the conference follows the indications given by the recent Conference of European Ministers Responsible for Higher Education at Bergen (May, 2005) and its final communiqué.

The working languages of the meeting are English and French.

Accommodations are to be done through *retravel* travel agency (person in charge: Mr. Amerigo Cuomo).

Aim and the Context of the Seminar

As one of the priorities for its 2005-2007 Work Programme, the BFUG has been given the mandate to "elaborate and agree on a strategy for the external dimension" in order to strengthen the attractiveness of the EHEA. Intercultural understanding and respect, as well as the exchange of ideas and fruitful collaboration with those partners outside the EHEA, will be possible only if the partners in this dialogue are aware of their own cultural and historical identity and agree to a common set of academic values.

The European university is a coveted place where its historical and cultural heritage and academic values have been tested and can be further developed. Both this heritage and these values testify to the richness of a civilization in which the human person, in all of his or her dimensions, is placed at the centre. The European university is also in the position to offer an original contribution for the future.

Concerning academic values, it is essential for institutions of higher learning to think about the close relationship between the freedom of scientific research and the investigation of truth; the relationship between the similarities of the different disciplines at the service of the human person and the autonomous epistemology of each academic discipline (e.g. philosophy and

theology, science and technology, humanities and the arts). It is also important to accept a universal and open horizon without hidden agendas or the traps of fundamentalism. This horizon includes the transcendence of the human person as a guarantee of freedom and the promotion of each person and the whole of humanity. Finally, meetings provide opportunities for dialogue and the reciprocal exchange of gifts among various cultures and religions.

Expected Outcomes of the Seminar

The Working Group of the BFUG on the “external dimension” – especially by the upcoming conference – promotes a common reflection and dialogue on Europe's cultural heritage, its specific programmes of studies and its shared academic values. We hope to clarify these concepts and will seek to identify the strategies necessary to strengthen this dimension of the Bologna Process. We are convinced that foreign students and university teachers/faculty deliberately choose the EHEA because of its cultural heritage and the richness of its tradition of integral humanism.

These issues form the specific method and content of knowledge, which characterizes higher education as it has matured over the course of centuries in the European university. As the method and content are broadened and considered anew, they will be able to provide a decisive cultural potential for the future of humankind. For this reason, the European university also will become a magnet for the formation of the new generation.

The Method of Work

The seminar will focus on the presentations and discussion of two principal topics, each of which will be conducted by more than one speaker:

- a. **The two keynote addresses** on “*The European Cultural Heritage: Its Identity and Challenges*”, which will be dealt with from a philosophical-cultural perspective and historical responses from institutions of higher learning. This approach is important, since it allows the institutions of higher learning to emphasize personal formation in the full anthropological sense. The responses from invited experts will enrich the analyses.
- b. **The panel of experts** speaking on “*The Academic Values of the European University and its Contemporary Relevance.*” They will indicate ways in which academic institutions and its staff should see and adjust their strategic role with regard to the needs of a specific academic discipline, ethical considerations and the need provide solutions to the new challenges posed by contemporary society.

The debate initiated during the above mentioned panel will be continued in four discussion groups. Participants will be invited to advance the dialogue and formulate more precisely the kind of actions to be undertaken in order to see the content, context and modalities of promotion of fundamental academic values [based on presentations made during the panel discussion].

The seminar will end with a synthesis of the interventions. It hopes to offer some helpful orientations for a strategy to strengthen the attractiveness of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) by drawing from the rich sources of the continent's cultural heritage and shared set of values.

Significance of the Host and the Place of the Seminar

The Holy See, whose long history is closely linked to the idea of the *universitas studiorum*, can contribute to a common reflection and dialogue on Europe's cultural heritage, its specific programmes of studies and its shared academic values. The seminar will help to clarify these concepts and will seek to identify the strategies necessary to strengthen this dimension of the Bologna Process.

The artistic and cultural patrimony of the city of Rome is themselves of great interest. As an essential part of the seminar, some time in the programme will be set-aside for participants to appreciate the unique cultural riches of the Eternal City.

Planned Programme of Events

Please note that, since transportation to the afternoon and evening events is arranged directly from the site of the sessions, appropriate attire for the events is recommended prior to morning departure from one's accommodations.

Thursday, March 30, 2006 [New Synod Hall]

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| 10:00 | Registration |
| 11:00 | Press conference |
| 15:00 | Opening ceremony
Chairperson: Archbishop J. Michael Miller, C.S.B.
Secretary for the Congregation for Catholic Education, Holy See
Speakers:
Zenon Cardinal Grocholewski, Prefect for the Congregation for Catholic Education, Holy See
Representative of the Austrian Minister of Education
* Mr. Ján Figel', Member of the European Commission in charge of Education, Training, Culture and Multilingualism, European Commission, Brussels |
| | Brief musical intermission |
| 16:00 | First Session: <i>The European Cultural Heritage: Its Identity and Challenges</i>
Chairperson: Mr. Sjur Bergan, Head of the Department of Higher Education and History Teaching, Council of Europe, Strasbourg |

Speakers:

Archbishop J. Mirosław Życiński, Grand Chancellor of the Catholic University
of Lublin, Poland

Prof. Hilde De Ridder-Symoens, Department of Early Modern History,
University of Ghent, Belgium

17:00

Coffee break

17:30

Responses from invited experts:

- *1. Dr. Ronald L. Numbers, President of the International Union for the
History and Philosophy of Science, University of Wisconsin, USA
2. Prof. Vladimir Filippov, Rector of the International University in Moscow,
Former Minister of Education of the Russian Federation
3. To be announced

Discussions and Synthesis from the Chairperson

19:00

Buffet and transfer to St. Mary Major

21:00

Concert



**Concert at St. Mary Major
Thursday, March 30, 2006 at 21:00**

Friday, March 31, 2006 [New Synod Hall]

9:00

The Second Session: *The Academic Values of the European University
and Its Contemporary Relevance*

Panel discussion:

Chairperson: Dr. Jan Sadlak, Director of UNESCO-CEPES

Members of the Panel:

Dr. Balint Magyar, Minister of Education, Budapest, Hungary

Prof. Theodor Berchem, President of DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service)

Prof. Manuel Braga, Catholic University of Lisbon, Portugal

Prof. Paolo Blasi, Professor of Physics (University of Florence), Board of Directors for National Council for Scientific Research

Student representatives: Ana Maria Suárez Franco and Proscovia Ssentamu-Namubiru, representatives from KAAD (Catholic Academic Foreign Service)

Discussions

10:30

Coffee break

11:00

Discussion Groups on Academic Values

12.45

Transfer to the Pontifical Gregorian University and buffet lunch

14.:45

Brief presentation of international, academic and scientific activities of the Holy See

15:00

The Third Session: *The European University: Its Cultural Legitimacy and Role In Constructing Europe*

Panel discussion

Members of the Panel:

Paul Cardinal Poupard., President of the Pontifical Council for Culture

Prof. Andrei Marga, President of the Council, Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

* Grand Rabbin Rene Samuel Sirat, President of the Hillel Academy, France

* Michel Lagarde, Prof. for Arabic and Islamic Sciences (Prix del'UNESCO pour la Culture Arabe 2005)

* Dr. Kjell Mague Bondevik, former Prime Minister of Norway

*Prof. Margaret Archer, Consultor for Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences, Great Britain

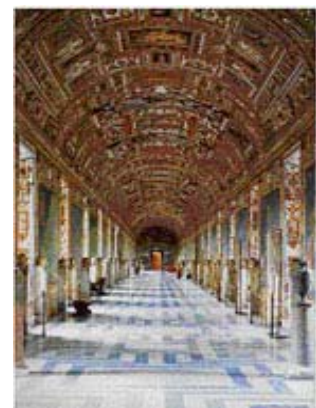
Discussions

17:30

Transfer to the Vatican and visit to the Vatican Museum and Sistine Chapel

19:30

Conference Gala Dinner at the Vatican



Saturday, April 1, 2006 [New Synod Hall]

- 9:00 **Closing Session**
Chairperson: Archbishop J. Michael Miller, C.S.B., Secretary for
 Congregation for Catholic Education, Holy See
Special Address:
*Reflections on Culture and Values as Founding Blocks
of European Construction*
*Dr. Ruth Kelly, Secretary of State, Department for Education and Skills,
 European Union
- 11:30 **Audience with Pope Benedict XVI**
- 12.45 Buffet lunch

* invited/subject to confirmation

Discussion groups

- **Discussion Group 1:** Basic Values of Academic Freedom
- **Discussion Group 2:** Foundations of Interdisciplinary Dialogue
- **Discussion Group 3:** Intercultural and Inter-religious Dialogue
- **Discussion Group 4:** Scientific Research and Ethical Responsibility

Special Events

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| • Buffet/concert | Thursday, 30 March | 19:00 |
| • Visit to the Vatican Museum
and Sistine Chapel | Friday, 31 March | 17:30 |
| • Conference dinner | Friday, 31 March | 19:30 |
| • Buffet lunch | Saturday, 1 April | 12:45 |

For the participants of the seminar, the "Special Events" are offered free of charge.