

EUA PRESS RELEASE AFTER THE PRAGUE SUMMIT

Universities at the core of the Bologna process

The active involvement of the European University Association in furthering the Bologna process was underlined by the Ministers in charge of higher education at their European Summit in Prague on 19 May 2001.

EUA, the main organisation of higher education institutions in Europe, welcomes the confirmation by the Ministers of the need to create by year 2010 a European Area of Higher Education:

- based on a two-tier degree structure articulating higher education in undergraduate and graduate studies;
- supported by a credit system providing both transferability and accumulation functions;
- characterised by improved mobility of students, teachers, researchers and administrative staff.

In his address to Summit participants, EUA President Eric Froment indicated that, as the conclusions of Salamanca Convention suggested, such a process could only be built on quality provision.

Therefore, EUA notes with satisfaction that quality assurance is a major concern also for Ministers who are interested in promoting the continuous enhancement of European higher education and research in an international context, facilitating the comparability of qualifications across Europe and enhancing the link between education and research which is essential to the member institutions of the Association.

Thus, EUA welcomes the Ministers' call to universities and other institutions of higher education to design, in collaboration with quality assurance agencies, scenarios for mutual acceptance of evaluation and accreditation/certification mechanisms.

The Association commits itself to continued participation in the implementation of

the Bologna process now that, for the first time, Ministers pledge to consult EUA for the follow-up work which, until the Berlin Higher Education Summit in 2003, will focus particularly on accreditation and quality assurance, recognition issues and the use of credits, the development of joint degrees, the social dimension and the enlargement of the Bologna process, lifelong learning and student involvement.

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