

**Progress in developments of the European Higher Education Framework**

**Introduction**

1. This paper contains a progress report (attached) on its work from the Bologna working group on qualifications frameworks (chaired by Mogens Berg, Denmark) – the group which oversaw the production of the Scottish and Irish reports verifying compatibility with the European Higher Education Area.

The progress report is delivered to the Bologna Follow Up Group, which acts on behalf of Ministers from countries signed up to Bologna, and oversees the evolution of the implementation of the Process.

The progress report contains a draft contribution to the London communiqué to be issued by Ministers from countries signed up to the Bologna process following their next meeting in London in Spring 2007.

**Recommendation**

2. SACCA members are invited to note the contents of the progress report and draft contribution and comment where appropriate.

**Further information**

3. For further information on the material covered in this paper please contact Alan Runcie or David Bottomley.

BFUG-Board  
BFUG-Drafting Group

### **Progress report and contribution to the London Communiqué**

The Working Group had its last meeting before Christmas and is now finalising its report.

The report brings the lessons learnt from the workshops on national qualifications frameworks and from the pilot projects of self-certification on verification of compatibility of national qualifications frameworks with the overarching framework of qualifications for the European Higher Education Area.

The main findings of the WG apart from the specific lessons learnt is reflected in the attached contribution to the London Communiqué:

We see for the moment no need for amendments to the Bergen Communiqué as regards the overarching framework of qualifications for the European Higher Education Area and to the procedures and criteria for verification of compatibility of national qualifications framework to the overarching framework.

But we see a need for facilitating experience sharing in the elaboration and development of national qualifications frameworks. This is not a job for a new working group, but should be vested in a permanent international organisation with own resources. The WG propose that this task is entrusted the Council of Europe, which already carries out the role of secretariat for the ENIC in the field of recognition and to which notifications of certification of national qualifications frameworks are given.

The WG was given the task to monitor the development of the European Commissions proposal for a European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning. The two main observations are

that the promotion of European higher education should build on the overarching framework of qualifications for the European Higher Education Area, and

the compatibility of national qualifications frameworks for higher education to the overarching Bologna framework implies that they are at the same time compatible to the EQF for LLL.

Our final report will be ready for the next meeting of the BFUG.

Best regards

Mogens Berg  
Chair

## Contribution to the London communiqué

(Introduction to the section according to the style of the communiqué)

We take note of the progress of the national implementation of the overarching framework of qualifications for the European Higher Education Area and we commit ourselves to continue its full implementation by 2010. We ask the **Council of Europe** to facilitate experience sharing in the elaboration of national qualifications frameworks.

The experience as far has demonstrated that there is no need for amendments to the overarching framework of qualifications for the European Higher Education Area and to the procedures and criteria for verification of compatibility of national qualifications framework.

We see the overarching framework of qualifications for the European Higher Education Area as a central aspect of the promotion of European higher education outside Europe.

We are satisfied that national qualifications frameworks compatible with overarching framework of qualifications for the European Higher Education Area will also be compatible with the proposal from the European Commission on a European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning.