Report on the establishment of the European Quality Assurance Register (EQAR)

Bologna Follow-Up Group, 13/14 March 2008, Brdo

1. This report updates the BFUG on progress made on the establishment of EQAR since the last BFUG meeting in October 2007.

2. The E4 Group was pleased to receive several questions and remarks during the past months, which reflects the keen interest of governments and stakeholders in the establishment of EQAR.

3. An additional brief report of the Founding Meeting on 4 March 2008 will be submitted shortly before the BFUG meeting.

4. Further documentation can be downloaded from the BFUG internal section, where the Secretariat has kindly setup a collection of documents regarding EQAR.

Founding of the EQAR Association

5. The foundation of the EQAR Association will take place on 4 March 2008 in Brussels. At this occasion, governments and the Social Partners have the opportunity to join the EQAR Association as members. Further details have already been circulated to the BFUG members.

6. It is anticipated that at least 60 people will attend the official founding ceremony on 4 March. The official founding act is followed by keynote addresses of Commissioner Ján Figeľ and BFUG Vice-Chair Germain Dondelinger.

7. The E4 expects that at least 10 Bologna signatories will join the association as Governmental Members at the founding event.

8. The Founding Assembly will approve the Register Committee, elect an Appeals Committee and decide on the membership fees of the Association and on the 2008 budget.

Register Committee

9. The E4 organisations as well as BUSINESSEUROPE and Education International have nominated 10 members to the Register Committee that will be approved by the Founding Assembly. The designated members of the Committee are:

    -   Christoph Anz
    -   Lucien Bollaert
    -   Gintautas Bražiūnas
    -   Éric Froment
    -   Henrik Toft Jensen
    -   Daire Keogh
    -   Dorte Kristoffersen

- Mala Singh
- Tanel Sits
- Regina Weber

10. The E4 Group was pleased to receive the BFUG's nomination of five observers on the Register Committee, namely Austria (represented by Friedrich Faulhammer), Denmark (represented by Helle Otte), Estonia (represented by Jaan Kõrgesaar), Ireland (represented by Tim Cullinane) and Portugal (represented by Cristina Jacinto).

Further steps

11. The 1st ordinary General Assembly of the EQAR Association is scheduled for late June 2008 (place and date to be confirmed) when an Appeals Procedure and the 2009 budget will be adopted.

12. Following the Founding Assembly, the Register Committee will develop Procedures for Applications providing for fair and equal handling of applications and decision making by the Register Committee. They will also contain requirements for external reviews of quality assurance agencies, building on the current guidelines of ENQA.

13. The Procedures for Applications will be developed in consultation with the General Assembly: a draft will be produced by the Register Committee and discussed at the 1st General Assembly. Subsequently the Register Committee will adopt the Procedures, taking due account of the opinion expressed by the General Assembly.

14. It is anticipated that quality assurance agencies can make applications for inclusion on the Register starting in July or August. The first round of applications will be considered by the Register Committee in October.

15. The 2nd ordinary General Assembly of the EQAR Association will take place in 2009.

Indicative roadmap

4 March 2008	Founding Assembly of EQAR
April/May 2008	Meeting of the Register Committee
late June 2008	1st General Assembly
	All Procedures, etc., in place
July/August 2008	Opening for applications by quality assurance agencies
October 2008	Register Committee decides on first applications

25/02/2008, CT