Report to the 15th meeting of the BFUG
(12/13 February 2009, Praha)

1.   This report informs the BFUG on the developments concerning EQAR since the BFUG meeting in October 2008 (Paris).

I. First round of applications

2.   The first three quality assurance agencies have been included on the register since 5 December 2008, following the decisions taken by the Register Committee at its meeting on 22/23 November 2008 in Budapest. Further applications are pending and will be considered further at the Register Committee's next meeting on 4/5 April 2009. New applications received by the next deadline, 9 Feb 2009, will also be considered in April.

3.   Please refer to the **Communiqué from the Chair of the Register Committee** for further information on the Committee's first decisions. It is annexed to this report and also available from the EQAR website.

II. New office

4.   EQAR moved office on 1 January 2009 and is now located together with West Midlands in Europe, smallbusinesseurope, East Midlands European Office, European Regional Research and Innovation Network (ERRIN), European Office of Lower Silesia, Cyprus European Office and University of Cyprus. Please note the new contact details:

> EQAR
> Oudergemselaan 22-28 Avenue d'Auderghem   Phone: +32 2 238 10 75
> 1040 Brussels, Belgium   Fax: +32 2 740 27 20

III. Upcoming 2nd EQAR General Assembly

5.   The next EQAR General Assembly will be held on **Wed 25 March 2009,** the day before the next meeting of the Bologna Follow-Up Group, **in Praha**. It will take place in the afternoon from 14:00 to ca. 17:00.

6.   Bologna signatory states that wish to join EQAR as Governmental Member and attend the 2nd General Assembly are kindly asked to file their application form by 6 March, if possible. The form is available from the BFUG website and on EQAR's website:

> http://www.eqar.eu/association/members/becoming-a-governmental-member.html

04/02/2009

First applications for inclusion on EQAR

– Communiqué from the Chair of the Register Committee –

Brussels, 5 December 2008

1. The Register Committee convened on 22/23 November 2008 in Budapest to consider the first applications for inclusion on the Register received from quality assurance agencies by the 3 October deadline. The Register Committee is an independent body of EQAR made up of independent experts in quality assurance who were nominated by the key stakeholders. Its task is to review and take decisions on all applications received.

2. Following the establishment of EQAR in March 2008, the first task of the Register Committee was to prepare Procedures for Applications governing its work. These procedures are based upon the European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance (ESG) adopted by the European ministers of higher education in Bergen in 2005 and were adopted through a process that included consultation of the different stakeholder bodies and governments represented in the General Assembly of EQAR.

3. Following the publication of the Procedures (see "Notes" for a weblink) a first call to quality assurance agencies inviting them to apply for inclusion on the register was launched in August 2008.

4. Aware of the importance of the Register for the European Higher Education Area the Register Committee took great care to follow these commonly agreed Procedures in its work. They describe the process and the conditions that quality agencies need to fulfil if they wish to be to be listed on the register, including:

   -   the formal requirements that must be fulfilled in relation to the conduct of the external review of the applicant agency; and

   -   the substantial compliance of their activities with the European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance (ESG).

5. The Register Committee considered the applications received with regard to these two important elements, in this way ensuring fair and consistent decision making based on reliable evidence provided by the agencies concerned.

6.   Following examination of the applications received EQAR is now pleased to announce the first three quality assurance agencies to be listed on the European register of quality assurance agencies:

- National Agency for Quality Assessment and Accreditation of Spain (ANECA)

- Agency for Quality Assurance in the Catalan University System (AQU)

- Accreditation Organization of The Netherlands and Flanders (NVAO)

7.   Further applications are pending.

8.   The next meeting of the Register Committee will take place in April 2009. The deadline for applications will be in early February 2009. More details will be available shortly on the EQAR website.

Bryan McMahon
Chair of the Register Committee

Notes:

1. **The Register is accessible online at:**

   http://www.eqar.eu/register.html

2. The European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance (ESG) are available on the EQAR website:

   http://www.eqar.eu/application/criteria.html

3. The Procedures for Applications, as well as other official documents, can be consulted on the EQAR website:

   http://www.eqar.eu/application.html

   http://www.eqar.eu/fileadmin/documents/eqar/official/RC_01_1_ProceduresForApplications_v1_0.pdf

4. EQAR was founded on 4 March 2008 by the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA), the European Students' Union (ESU), the European University Association (EUA) and the European Association of Institutions in Higher Education (EURASHE). Please consult our website for general information.