

**Note**

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From: Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research	Date: 04.10.2005
To: The Bologna Follow-up Group (BFUG)	Case no.: 200503908-
	Resp.: Rasmussen Alf
	Tel.:

**PROPOSAL FOR A BFUG WORKING GROUP ON THE EXTERNAL DIMENSION OF THE BOLOGNA PROCESS****A. Bergen Communiqué**

In the Bergen communiqué the following is said on the external dimension under the headline “*The attractiveness of the EHEA and cooperation with other parts of the world*”:

“The European Higher Education Area must be open and should be attractive to other parts of the world. Our contribution to achieving education for all should be based on the principle of sustainable development and be in accordance with the ongoing international work on developing guidelines for quality provision of cross-border higher education. We reiterate that in international academic cooperation, academic values should prevail.

We see the European Higher Education Area as a partner of higher education systems in other regions of the world, stimulating balanced student and staff exchange and cooperation between higher education institutions. We underline the importance of intercultural understanding and respect. We look forward to enhancing the understanding of the Bologna Process in other continents by sharing our experiences of reform processes with neighbouring regions. We stress the need for dialogue on issues of mutual interest. We see the need to identify partner regions and intensify the exchange of ideas and experiences with those regions. We ask the Follow-up Group to elaborate and agree on a strategy for the external dimension.”

There are proposals for two seminars on this theme in the period Bergen – London: The Holy See seminar in April 2006, and seminar arranged by the Nordic countries in September 2006 (see separate documents). In *this* document, the Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden), propose to link these two seminars to **an overarching working group** with the mandate to elaborate upon a strategy for the external dimension, as asked for by ministers in Bergen.

## **B. Terms of Reference**

1. In order to realise the objectives set by the Ministers, the activity of the Working Group will be divided into to separate phases:
  - a) The working group will act as a reference group for the two seminars, providing coordination and division of responsibilities. The group shall give advice to topics to be discussed and papers to be commissioned for the seminars.
  - b) After the seminars the working group will develop further the input to and the outcomes of the seminars, and propose a consistent strategy document on the external dimension.
2. The Working Group will report regularly to the Bologna Follow Up Group. Before it finalises its work, a draft strategy document shall be discussed in a full BFUG-meeting.

The Working Group will be provided with secretarial assistance from the Bologna secretariat and from the country chairing the group.

## **C. Members of the Working Group**

In its meeting in Manchester on 12-13 October BFUG is invited to approve the establishment of a working group to develop and report on a strategy for the external dimension of the Bologna process.

Members of the Working Group are BFUG-representatives from the following countries:

1. Norway (chair)
2. Germany
3. United Kingdom
4. France
5. Spain
6. The Holy See
7. Other Nordic representative(s)?
8. ....

The following organisations should be involved in the process:

1. EUA
2. ESIB
3. UNESCO
4. The European Council
5. ....

The Working Group will submit progress reports to BFUG and a final proposal for a strategy on the external dimension of the Bologna process to the London Conference through BFUG.