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BFUG Meeting LXXIV

18 November 2020

online, hosted by Italy

Minutes

List of participants

#	Delegation	First name	Surname
1	Albania	Linda	Pustina
2	Andorra (incoming BFUG Co-chair)	Jordi	Llombart
3	Andorra	Mar	Martínez
4	Armenia	Gayane	Harutyunyan
5	Armenia	Samvel	Karabekyan
6	Austria	Helga	Posset
7	Azerbaijan	Shahin	Bayramov
8	Azerbaijan	Nijat	Mammadli
9	Belarus	Elena	Betenya
10	Belgium/Flemish Community	Magalie	Soenen
11	Belgium/French Community	Caroline	Hollela
12	Bulgaria	Elena	Atanasova
13	Bulgaria	Ivana	Radonova
14	Bulgaria	Iskra	Yoshovska
15	Croatia (outgoing BFUG Co-chair)	Leonardo	Marušić
16	Croatia (outgoing BFUG Co-chair)	Ana	Tecilazić Goršić
17	Cyprus	Kyriacos	Charalambous
18	Czech Republic	Tomáš	Fliegl
19	Czech Republic	Lenka	Skrabalova
20	Estonia	Janne	Pukk
21	European Commission	Vanessa	Debiais-Sainton
22	European Commission	Klara	Engels-Perenyi
23	Finland	Maija	Innola
24	France	Marc	Deflandre
25	France	Denis	Despréaux
26	France	Hélène	Lagier

#	Delegation	First name	Surname
27	Georgia	Kakha	Khandolishvili
28	Georgia	Nunu	Mitskevich
29	Germany (BFUG Co-chair)	Peter	Greisler
30	Germany	Marius	Michalski
31	Germany	Patrick	Neuhaus
32	Germany	Frank	Petrikowski
33	Greece	Alexia	Karvouni
34	Holy See	Melanie	Rosenbaum
35	Hungary	Ernő	Keszei
36	Hungary	Laura	Sinorós-Szabó
37	Iceland	Una	Strand Viðarsdóttir
38	Ireland	Joseph	Gleeson
39	Ireland	Padraig	Hennigan
40	Italy (BFUG Vice-chair)	Ann Katherine	Isaacs
41	Italy	Vincenzo	Zara
42	Kazakhstan	Erkin	Sadykov
43	Latvia	Daiga	Ivsina
44	Liechtenstein	Daniel	Miescher
45	Lithuania	Andrius	Zalitis
46	Luxembourg	Isabelle	Reinhardt
47	Malta	Tanya	Sammut-Bonnici
48	Moldova	Nadejda	Velisco
49	Montenegro	Kristina	Ljuljdjuraj
50	Netherlands	Berto	Bosscha
51	Netherlands	Emmy	Heijmans
52	North Macedonia	Borco	Aleksov
53	Norway	Tone Flood	Strøm
54	Poland	Ilona	Juszczuk
55	Romania	Cristina	Ghițulică
56	Romania	Mihai Cezar	Haj
57	Russian Federation	Elena	Gorozhankina
58	Russian Federation	Nadezda	Kamynina
59	San Marino	Monica	Cavalli
60	San Marino	Elena	D'Amelio
61	Serbia	Bojan	Tubić
62	Slovak Republic	Jozef	Jurkovič
63	Slovak Republic	Ester	Magyarova
64	Slovenia	Duša	Marjetič

#	Delegation	First name	Surname
65	Slovenia	Marija	Škerlj
66	Spain	Margarita	de Lezcano-Mújica
67	Sweden	Robin	Moberg
68	Switzerland	Aurélia	Robert-Tissot
69	Turkey	Tuncay	Döğeroğlu
70	Turkey	Elif	Huntürk
71	Turkey	Canan	Ünvan
72	Ukraine (outgoing BFUG Co-chair)	Kateryna	Suprun
73	United Kingdom	Emma	Brodie
74	United Kingdom (BFUG Co-chair)	Pamela	Wilkinson
75	United Kingdom (Scotland) (BFUG Co-chair)	Michael	Watney
76	BUSINESSEUROPE	Robert	Plummer
77	Council of Europe	Sjur	Bergan
78	Council of Europe	Katia	Dolgova-Dreyer
79	ENQA	Christoph	Grolimund
80	ENQA	Maria	Kelo
81	EQAR	Karl	Dittrich
82	EQAR	Colin	Tück
83	ESU	Martina	Darmanin
84	ESU	Gohar	Hovhannisyan
85	ETUCE	Andreas	Keller
86	ETUCE	Agnes	Roman
87	EUA	Michael	Gaebel
88	EURASHE	Michal	Karpíšek
89	UNESCO	Peter	Wells
90	EURYDICE (WG1 Co-chair)	David	Crosier
91	BFUG Secretariat (Head)	Luca	Lantero
92	BFUG Secretariat	Rocio	Iglesias de Ussel Rubio
93	BFUG Secretariat	Vera	Lucke

Apologies from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Denmark, and Portugal.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this BFUG meeting was held completely online.

1. Welcome and introduction

1.1 Welcome by the current BFUG Co-chairs: Germany / United Kingdom / United Kingdom (Scotland)

The German BFUG Co-chair welcomed the participants and expressed that he was looking forward to a hopefully successful Ministerial Conference and the adoption of the Rome Communiqué.

The BFUG Co-chair from United Kingdom (Scotland) also welcomed the participants and thanked the Italian BFUG Secretariat and delegation for their huge amount of work in these challenging times. He added that the preparations looked impressive and that he was looking forward to the Conference.

1.2 Welcome by the BFUG Vice-chair (Italy)

The BFUG Vice-Chair welcomed all the participants and thanked, on behalf of Italy, for the cooperation and positive and proactive work in the last 2,5 years.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Attachment: BFUG_DE_UK_74_Draft_Annotated_Agenda.pdf

3. Statement on the situation in Belarus by the Co-chairs United Kingdom, United Kingdom (Scotland) and Germany

The BFUG Co-chairs had prepared a statement on the situation in Belarus. 24 BFUG member countries and 6 BFUG consultative members expressed their interest to sign the statement. Other BFUG members had either declared that they won't sign the declaration, couldn't reach a decision or didn't react. In general, many BFUG countries worry about the fact that fundamental values and human rights of students and teachers are not respected in Belarus. The BFUG Co-chair added that the BFUG seems to not be able to reach a consensus on how a reaction on the situation should look like, as the principle of non-interference can be interpreted in different ways. The BFUG Co-chairs Germany and United Kingdom / United Kingdom (Scotland) would still like to make this issue transparent and would like to offer help to the victims of violation of human rights on their own territory.

The BFUG Co-chairs asked to publish their statement together with the [Rome Ministerial Conference material on the EHEA website](#), so that everybody can refer to it in speeches and press releases.

All the BFUG members and consultative members have received an answer letter from Belarus via e-mail.

During the discussion on this topic, the Russian Federation took the floor read a reaction statement, that had been sent to all the BFUG and Consultative members before the meeting and asked the BFUG Secretariat to also publish it as background material for the Conference.

The Belarusian delegate took the floor and read the letter that was sent to all the BFUG members via e-mail.

Some BFUG members took the floor and explained why they could not or did not want to sign the Statement because of several reasons.

Some other BFUG members took the floor, explicitly stated that they would like to sign the Statement and asked the BFUG Co-chairs to publish a list of signing countries as annex to the statement. After the BFUG meeting, this list was published together with all the material on this topic [on the EHEA website](#).

Attachment: BFUG_DE_UK_74_Co-chairs_Statement_situation_Belarus.pdf

4. Information from the BFUG Secretariat

4.1 Technical information on the virtual Ministerial Conference

The EHEA 2020 Ministerial Conference will be live-streamed on <https://ehea2020rome.it/>. The link can be sent to national and international stakeholders and can be watched from all over the world.

The whole Conference will be interpreted in the following languages: Italian, English, French, German, Spanish and Russian.

Registered delegates should log into the website to have access to the chat. In the chat, all the delegates can chat with other delegates and can create chat groups.

Speakers should connect on another system (evergreen system) to be able to be visible during the conference. All the accounts should have been tested or can still be tested before the conference.

A chat for technicalities will be organised on GoToMeetings, that will be available during the whole conference to solve technical problems and to tell the speakers when they should be ready.

4.2 Ministerial Conference programme and course of events

The Conference Programme was explained in detail and the technicalities for each block of speeches was shown. Some last questions were answered.

Attachment: BFUG_DE_UK_74_Programme_Rome_Conference.pdf

4.3 Conference Material

The Rome Communiqué with its annexes and all the Conference Material was uploaded on <https://ehea2020rome.it/pages/documents> and <http://ehea.info/page-ministerial-conference-rome-2020>. Press material can be accessed here: <https://ehea2020rome.it/pages/press>.

4.4. Side events

In addition to the Conference, the Italian host organised a virtual concert <https://ehea2020rome.it/pages/concert> and an exhibition by the Italian institutions of Art: <https://ehea2020rome.it/pages/exhibition> that can be watched also after the Conference. The delegations have received boxes with Italian food and gifts via post.

5. AOB

No other business was raised.

The BFUG Co-chair (Germany) thanked all the BFUG members and the Italian BFUG Secretariat and host for their work and preparations and wished everybody good luck.