

Note

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To:	The Bologna Follow-up Group (BFUG)	Case no.:	200503908-
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PROPOSAL FOR A SEMINAR ON THE EXTERNAL DIMENSION OF THE BOLOGNA PROCESS

As stated in the Bergen communiqué from the conference of European Ministers responsible for higher education in May 2005, further actions should be taken to work out the external dimension of the Bologna process. Ministers agreed that a strategy for the external dimension would be the best framework for the future work on this area.

The Nordic countries – Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden - has a long and ongoing tradition of co-operation in the field of higher education. Therefore, these countries will jointly propose to the BFUG to host a seminar on the external dimension of the Bologna process to contribute to the process of developing such a strategy. Together with the planned seminar arranged by the Holy See, the proposed seminar by the Nordic countries could be an important input to the strategy, see the enclosed document. In order to foster dialogue on the strategy, the seminar should include representatives from regions outside the European area

According to the Bergen Communiqué, the strategy should aim at improving European competitiveness and relations between the Bologna area and other regions, and in particular discussing how the Bologna process can contribute to the strengthening of the competence and Higher Education capacity in developing countries and other regions with strong ties to Europe.

The Nordic countries would like to host the seminar on 28 - 29 September 2006 at the University of Oslo, Norway. Due to the increased number of participating

countries in the Bologna process, and also the opportunity to invite representatives from outside the Bologna process area, the number of participants will be larger than usual. However, the total number of participants should not exceed 250.