



Speaking notes for the Budapest and Vienna Ministerial conference, 11-12th of March 2010

4. Essence and impact

Student representatives from across Europe were meeting this week in Vienna to discuss the impact of the Bologna Process on higher education in Europe. On March 9, they adopted a declaration to the Bologna Ministerial Anniversary Conference in Budapest /Vienna.

It is with great honour that I bring forward the 4 main messages that European students wanted the European ministers to hear. They asked all 47 countries governments to commit to:

1. Supporting the aims of the Bologna Process, whilst not allowing for further confusion regarding the main goals and tools of the process. This is especially important when looking at the parallel agendas being launched at the same time as the EHEA, such as the EU2020.
2. Holistic, In-depth and financially supported continued implementation of all Bologna action lines, with a special focus on the social dimension, mobility and student-centred learning.
3. Inter-governmental solidarity, to overcome the ill-effects of the 'two-speed' Bologna implementation, rather than an excessive focus on the individual promotion of national higher education systems.
4. Full student participation in all decision-making structures at national, regional and institutional levels.

Bologna is at its first finish line. We will now have a European Higher Education Area that needs to be functional. And we commit to be an active partner in this endeavor. We are celebrating here the 9 years of student participation in the Bologna Process and its impact, from the focus on social dimension to the mobility benchmark and from the promotion of student centered learning to making student participation a Bologna unique characteristic. Students were protesting these days because Bologna, as they perceive it, has brought more sorrow than a welcome change. In order for the Bologna Process to be perceived as a process for students – a students' process if you like, we need your help. On behalf of all ESU members, I thank you for all your efforts so far and congratulations for a part of a dream come true. Now, let's make sure it does not transform into a nightmare, but that someone could wake up to see the dream has come true.

Thank you all!