

COMMUNIQUE
From
The General Assembly
Of the
European University Foundation
Following its meeting in Luxembourg
On 4th October, 2004

- **Appendix 1** attached to this communiqué lists the representatives from the universities attending the European University Foundation General Assembly which was held in Luxembourg on 4th October, 2004:

- **The General Assembly of the European University Foundation (EUF) notes with satisfaction and acclaim the progress which has been made to date in establishing the EUF and in charting and consolidating its early development.** This progress includes the following: the President of the EUF has been elected by the General Assembly and is now in office; the Secretary General of the EUF and the EUF secretariat (four persons) have been appointed; the funding which has been promised by the Luxembourg Government has now been put in place; the headquarters and head office of the EUF in Luxembourg, Chateau de Munsbach, is being renovated and should be occupied by the EUF Secretary General and EUF secretariat in early October, 2004; subject committees and pilot projects which seek to apply the EUF /Campus Europae degree system in selected EUF member universities throughout Europe are underway; and the Administrative Board of the EUF and the General Assembly of the EUF meet regularly.

- **Looking ahead to the EUF's development in the immediate future, the General Assembly wishes to record the following opinions it has expressed and decisions which it has taken at its meeting on 4th October, 2004:**
 - ** **The European Humanities University, Belarus:** One of the member universities of the EUF, the European Humanities University in Minsk, Belarus, has been pursuing its development by way of increasing the academic professionalism and academic freedom under which its programmes are developed and delivered to its students. This base for the University's development is designed to contribute significantly to the democratic socio-economic development of Belarus in the time ahead through the training and delivery of highly professional young graduates to

Belarus society. Unfortunately, the Belarus Government has seen fit to hinder seriously this development by seeking the resignation of the rector of the University, Professor Anatoli Mikhailov, and by withdrawing from it its degree awarding powers. The EUF has protested strongly to the Government of Belarus through the Government's Minister for Education, and it notes the intervention of many diplomatic representations which have condemned the situation, have called for its reversal, and have endeavoured to have it redressed. The students of the European Humanities University have had their academic careers very seriously and unfairly interrupted and/or cancelled. The General Assembly of the EUF appeals to each of its member universities to help these students in whatever way is possible, particularly by providing resources through which the students can pursue their academic programmes in the EUF member universities. The EUF stance on this matter is determined by its wish to see the principles of democratic governance prosper, particularly in academic bodies, within Belarus and the EHU shall, in view of its continuing academic quality, continue to have full membership status of the EUF/CE, pending its re-establishment as a university with degree awarding power;

**** The Subject Committees and Pilot Projects already on hand within the EUF:** The General Assembly applauds the progress which is being made to turn the central vision of the EUF (including its Campus Europae concerted degree) into practice through the action relating to the subject committees, and pilot projects which are focussed on Business Studies, Engineering, Law, Natural Sciences, and Humanities. Because of the great importance of this activity for the eventual success of the European University Foundation/Campus Europae vision, the General Assembly requests the Administrative Board of the EUF to expand the subject committee system and related pilot projects during the next year (i.e.: Teacher Training) so that a major increase may take place in the exchange students who will enrol for the EUF/Campus Europae concerted degree. It requests the EUF member universities to support the EUF Administrative Board in this task.

**** Tour d'Europe during 2005:** The Students' Council of the European University Foundation, in conjunction with the EUF Secretary General, organised and delivered a highly successful tour of the EUF member universities (throughout Europe) by Campus Europae students during 2003. Much favourable publicity, knowledge transfer, and university commitment to the EUF/Campus Europae idealism ensued. The General Assembly requests the Administrative Board and Students' Council of the EUF to organise a further Tour of Europe during year 2005 in order to promote even greater commitment to the EUF/Campus Europae ideal. It requests the EUF university members to provide the same degree of valuable support as they provided for the first Campus Europae tour of Europe during 2003. Without this support, the suggested Tour of Europe 2005 is unlikely to take place.

**** Increasing student exchange:** An essential element of the EUF/Campus Europae concerted degree model is based on student exchange throughout Europe. This exchange cannot be fostered successfully, and is extremely unlikely to take place to the extent required unless there is adequate funding to foster the social dimension (housing, living and related expenses) of exchange programmes. The

General Assembly has noted, with acclaim, the working paper produced by the Secretary General on this matter and adopted by the Administrative Board of the EUF. It asks the Administrative Board to present this paper to the European Commission, and it requests the European Commission to consider positively the possibility of providing adequate funding which will lead to major student transfer taking place under the EUF/Campus Europae programme. Such student transfer and mobility amongst universities throughout Europe would be in close accord with the aims and objectives of the Bologna process.

**** Work Experience for EUF/Campus Europae Students:**

To increase the employability of young academics in Europe is one of the main goals of the Bologna-Process. So the incorporation of study related work experience in the activity of EUF/Campus Europae students will be of major economic and academic benefit to the students themselves, and also of major benefit to European companies and to employer and labour organisations throughout Europe. It will mean the entry of mature graduates, with proven work-related experience and several European languages, into the European workforce. This will contribute importantly to both the economic and social development of Europe in the time ahead. Regarding the European employability of students in the upcoming years an excellent academic education is the essential basis. Guarantying such an education of excellence is one of the mayor focuses of member universities of EUF-CE. Gaining of experience in study related jobs will contribute to a deeper awareness of quality of education by the students and can refine their competences. Moreover motivations and engagements for the field of studies can be reinforced. The General Assembly of the European University Foundation therefore appeals to all European employer and trade union organisations to foster the possibility of providing work experience for these students. It also appeals to the European states to rescind such regulations, currently in existence, which hinder young academics and students from gaining work experience as part of their professional formation and training.

The above communiqué was approved and issued by the General Assembly of the European University Foundation at its meeting in Luxembourg on 4th October, 2004.

Further information can be obtained from the Secretary General of the European University Foundation, Professor Christoph Ehmann, at the following contact points: EUF, Chateau de Munsbach, Rue du Parc 31, L – 5374 Munsbach, Luxembourg (christoph.ehmann@campuseuropae.org)

List of representatives from the universities attending the European University Foundation General Assembly held in Luxembourg on 4th October, 2004:

- European Humanities University *in exile*, Minsk, Belarus
Prof. Anatoli Mikhailov
- Universidad Autonoma de Madrid, Spain
Dr. Gustavo Sutter
- University of Aveiro, Portugal
Prof. Antonio Ferrari
- University of Greifswald, Germany
Mr. Stefan Plasa
- University of Hamburg, Germany
Prof. Wilfried Hartmann
- University Henri Poincaré (Nancy I), France
Prof. Marie-Christine Béné
- University of Latvia, Latvia
Prof. Ivars Lacis
- University of Liège, Belgium
Prof. Bernard Rentier
- University of Limerick, Ireland
Prof. Noel Whelan
- University of Lodz and Academy of Humanities and Economics (AHE), Lodz, Poland
Prof. Sylwia Kaczmarek (Univ. of Lodz) and Prof. Makary Stasiak (AHE)
- University of Luxembourg
Prof. Jean-Paul Lehnens
- University of Novi Sad, Serbia and Montenegro
Prof. Miroslav Plancak
- University of Örebro, Sweden
Prof. Joakim Nergelius
- University of Trento, Italy
Prof. Massimo Egidi
- University of Vienna, Austria
Prof. Herbert Schendl
- Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas, Lithuania
Prof. Pranas Zukauskas