

COMMUNIQUE
from the General Assembly of the
European University Foundation/Campus Europae
following its meeting in Luxembourg
On 27th March, 2006

The General Assembly of the European University Foundation (EUF) welcomed the University of Alcalá (Spain) and the Technical University of Lodz (Poland) to the Campus Europae network. Both of these universities have become members of the EUF/Campus Europae. The combined student body of the two universities amounts to about 45.000 students and the wide scope of degrees awarded by both institutions will allow Campus Europae to increase the range of study programmes that are made available to its students. The University of Alcalá and the Technical University of Lodz have a longstanding reputation for academic excellence, and their membership is in line with the CE aims insofar as geographical and linguistic diversity are concerned. In both towns the European idea of "unity in diversity" is well represented: Alcalá de Henares became known, in the 16th century, as a city where cultural and religious tolerance allowed for Christians, Jews and Muslims to live together peacefully while Lodz is known as the "City of Four Cultures", in an allusion to joint efforts of Poles, Jews, Germans and Russians who, in the 19th century, developed a once small rural town into one of Europe's industrial strongholds.

The General Assembly supports the efforts of the Campus Europae Subject Committees to meet the student targets set for the academic year 2006/2007 in accordance with the CE strategic action plan. The General Assembly emphasised that, in addition to the general student exchange programme, the student exchange for the BA degree should also be an integral part of the Campus Europae programme, otherwise the majority of university students will be excluded from experiencing Europe's unity in diversity.

The General Assembly warmly congratulates the European Humanities University on its formal accreditation as an international university in Lithuania. The EHU is now in a position to resume its active membership in the Campus Europae network and to continue to contribute for the democratic development of Belarus.

The General Assembly welcomed the final results of the post-study evaluation for the academic year 2004/2005. The survey (undertaken by the EUF/CE Secretariat) of the 52 students who inaugurated the CE study programmes shows an almost flawless recognition of the credits awarded during their stays abroad and a wholly positive assessment of their study experience with CE.

The General Assembly approved the CE's new programme "Bologna meets Lisbon" which combines studying with working abroad. While the notion of "European employability" has been one of the Bologna Process cornerstones, the role of universities in transforming Europe into a knowledge based economy has been increasingly acknowledged in the implementation of the Lisbon Strategy – as the European Commission notes, in the "Mobilizing the brainpower of Europe" Communication (April 2005), "the integration of graduates into professional life and hence into society is a major social responsibility of Higher Education".

The EUF/CE "Bologna meets Lisbon" is a programme designed to meet a triple objective:

- This programme targets especially those students who now are structurally excluded from long term exchange programmes because they have to earn a relevant part of their living costs and whose working places are not "transferable";
- It allows exchange students the chance to articulate their studies with study related part-time jobs in their country of destination, without prolonging the average study-time - this is meant to strengthen their learning process and develop further their linguistic and cultural adaptation;
- It facilitates and strengthens regional networks of universities and social partners by having an increasingly high number of its students working for partner companies will facilitate future strategic collaboration as universities and companies learn more about each others needs, expectations and interests.

With the beginning of the next study year, Campus Europae will start an information campaign in the university towns to bring local employers and university faculties together and to create more “study related working places” which will increase the student’s practical competences and the understanding of the host society and labour organisation.

List of representatives from the universities attending the European University Foundation General Assembly held in Luxembourg on 27st March, 2006:

- University of Alcalá, Spain
Prof. Dr Teresa del Val
- University of Aveiro, Portugal
Prof. Dr Estela Pereira
- University of Greifswald, Germany
Prof. Dr Hans-Joachim Hannich
- University of Hamburg, Germany
Prof. Dr Wilfried Hartmann
- University Henri Poincaré (Nancy I), France
Prof. Dr Marie-Christine Béné
- University of Latvia, Latvia
Prof. Dr Ivars Lacis
- University of Liège, Belgium
Prof. Dr Albert Corhay
- University of Limerick, Ireland
Dr. John O’Brien
- University of Lodz, Poland
Prof. Dr Wojciech Katner
- University of Luxembourg
Prof. Dr Jean-Paul Lehnens
- University of Novi Sad, Serbia and Montenegro
Prof. Dr Vladimir Katic

- University of Örebro, Sweden
Prof. Dr Irène Lindgren
- University of Trento, Italy
Prof. Dr Giovanni Pegoretti
- University of Vienna, Austria
Mr. Gerhard Wagner
- Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas, Lithuania
Prof. Dr Vytautas Kaminskas
- European Humanities University, Lithuania
Prof. Dr Anatoli Mikhailov

Chairperson of the General Assembly was Professor Noel Whelan, President of the European University Foundation/Campus Europae.

The above communiqué was approved and issued by the General Assembly of the European University Foundation at its meeting in Luxembourg on 27st March, 2006.

Further information can be obtained from the Secretariat of the European University Foundation by email (joao.bacelar@campuseuropae.org), fax (+352 26151032) or letter (EUF, Chateau de Munsbach, rue du Parc 31, L – 5374 Munsbach, Luxembourg).