

Mr Anthony McClaran
Chief Executive
Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA)

Vienna, 10 October 2013

Subject: Confirmation of QAA full membership in ENQA

Dear Mr McClaran,

I am pleased to inform you that, at its meeting of 19 September 2013, the Board of ENQA agreed to reconfirm QAA Full membership of ENQA for five years from this decision.

The Board acknowledged the very positive results of the review and, on the basis of its scrutiny of the final review report, agreed that QAA met the necessary requirements for being reconfirmed ENQA Membership.

Given that the methodology of QAA is in a phase of transition with the recent adoption of the risk-based approach, and since the panel was not yet in a position to judge on the implementation of this approach, the Board requests a follow-up report by September 2015 on the actions QAA has undertaken to meet the recommendations contained in the annex to this letter. The next external review will give special attention to these points.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me or the ENQA Secretariat.

Please accept my congratulations to QAA on the confirmation of its full membership in ENQA.

Yours sincerely,



Achim Hopbach
President of ENQA

Annex: Areas for development

The Board suggests QAA to pay attention to the following issues, on which progress is expected in the follow-up report:

- ESG 2.2 (development of external QA processes)
 - **Panel recommendation:** “the “risk-based” analysis should be developed further (...) bearing in mind the need to ensure conceptual clarity and procedural fitness for coherent implementation.”
 - **Board request:** The risk-based approach will be a major feature of the new review system in the UK. The follow-up report should provide explanations and clarifications on the implementation of this approach.

- ESG 2.4 (processes fit for purpose)
 - **Board request:** in the follow-up report, QAA is invited to describe and provide evidence on how the guideline: “ensuring that the review procedures used are sufficient to provide adequate evidence to support the findings and conclusions reached” is met.

- ESG 2.7 (periodic reviews)
 - **Panel comment:** “For all institutions, the balance of risk would need to be carefully calibrated against the comprehensive expectations contained in the Quality Code. The transition to the Quality Code will be completed in 2013-14 and the QAA website redeveloped, to add institutions and the public in understanding the Quality Code’s role and relevance.”
 - **Board request:** the follow-up report should include progress on this statement, as well as evidence on how the panel recommendation is implemented.

- ESG 3.5 (independence)
 - **Panel recommendation:** “care should be taken to safeguard the element of current HEFCE funding and to protect the operational independence of QAA in any changes following the implementation of revisions of HEI funding model in England, whereby funding for teaching will in future reach institutions wholly via student fees (rather than a combination of tuition fees and grant via HEFCE)”.
 - **Board request:** the follow-up report should include an analysis on this