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Prof. Salvador Rus  
Director  
Quality Assurance Agency for the University System in Castilla y León (ACSUCYL)  
Avda. Reyes Católicos nº 2  
47006 Valladolid  
Spain

Dublin, 18 March 2015

**Subject: External review of ACSUCYL and decision on membership**

Dear Prof. Rus,

I am pleased to inform you that, at its meeting of 6 March 2015, the Board of ENQA agreed to renew ACSUCYL Full membership of ENQA for five years from that date.

On the basis of its scrutiny of the final review report, the Board agreed that ACSUCYL met the necessary requirements for renewal of ENQA Membership.

Though the ENQA Board concluded that ACSUCYL is in substantial compliance with the European Standards and Guidelines, the Board would like to receive a follow-up report within two years of the decision, i.e. by March 2017. The report should be based on the recommendations in the review report (as outlined in the attached annex).

Please accept my congratulations to ACSUCYL on this renewal of Full Membership in ENQA.

Yours sincerely,



Padraig Walsh  
President of ENQA

Annex: Areas for development

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## **ANNEX: AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT**

In addition to the panels' recommendations listed in the review report, the Board would like to draw the Agency's attention to the following areas for development:

### **ENQA Criterion 3 – Resources (ESG 3.4)**

### **ENQA Criterion 6 – External quality assurance criteria and processes used by the members (ESG 3.7)**

The Board acknowledges that ACSUCYL handled the budget cuts very well, maintaining the quality and professionalism of the agency's work, as well as the motivation of staff. However, the budgetary and resource constraints placed on the Agency raise questions about its ability to conduct developmental work or to take on new activity. The introduction of 161 new ex-post accreditation procedures in 2015 will be highly challenging, on top of existing activity. This will continue in 2016 with a further 156 procedures planned.

The Board concurs with the Panel in recommending the Agency to *"work on influencing regional and national legislation in order to make sure tasks and resources are aligned"* and to *"consider ways to ensure that the many tasks related to the substantial number of planned ex-post accreditation procedures do not threaten the agency's quality standards and allow for the implementation of ex-post-accreditation procedures with high standards"*.

The Board would like to see how the Agency has coped with this additional work in the follow-up report.

### **ENQA Criterion 7 – Accountability procedures (ESG 3.8)**

The Agency is encouraged to:

- give a stronger focus to external quality assurance on strategic and qualitative aspects rather than on "technical" procedures and processes;
- further strengthen its accountability through strategic discussions with stakeholders from Castilla y León on EQA and further involve students through the newly formed Student Committee.

### **ENQA Criterion 8ii: Miscellaneous**

It is advisable, as recommended by the panel, that the appeals procedure is handled by a separate body which is not responsible for running the review processes.