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15702 Santiago de Compostela, Spain

Dublin, 26 September 2014

Subject: Full membership of ACSUG in ENQA

Dear José Eduardo López Pereira,

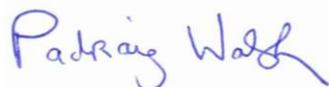
I am pleased to inform you that, at its meeting of 15 September 2014, the Board of ENQA agreed to reconfirm ACSUG Full membership of ENQA for five years from that date.

Though the ENQA Board concluded that ACSUG is in substantial compliance with the European Standards and Guidelines, the Board would like to receive a follow-up report on the recommendations in the panel report (as outlined in the annex attached) within two years of its decision, i.e. by September 2016.

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

Please accept my congratulations for the re-confirmation of Full Membership of ACSUG.

Yours sincerely,



Padraig Walsh
President of ENQA

Annex: Areas for development

Annex 1: Areas for development

As outlined by the review panel, ACSUG is recommended to take appropriate action, so far as it is empowered to do so, on the following issues:

- consider how it might initiate a conversation with the quality agencies of the other Autonomous Communities and the National Agency, ANECA, in order to explore whether and how to devolve more of the operational aspects of responsibilities for quality assurance to the Universities, including the Galician Universities, thereby effecting economies in its own activities and enhancing the autonomy of the Universities
- as part of its move to adopt a more strategic approach to planning its activities consider how, when setting the aims and objectives for new external quality assurance processes it could undertake consultations specifically linked to such proposals more widely across the Galician Universities and stakeholders before asking its Board of Directors to approve them
- explore with its stakeholders whether they would welcome proposals for the external review of Universities as whole academic communities and corporate entities responsible for the quality of their programmes and the academic standards of the awards to which they lead
- continue to seek ways in which reviewers from outside Spain and other international experts can contribute to the Agency's reviews and its work more generally
- consider, if appropriate in association with the quality agencies of the other Autonomous Communities and the National Agency, ANECA, how it might ensure the inclusion of an element of retrospective critical self-evaluation in submissions for each of the external review processes it operates, in order to encourage the exercise of critical self reflection on the part of the subjects of its reviews
- reflect carefully on the concerns expressed about the FIDES-AUDIT process in the 2009 Report and this report and seek to initiate a conversation with the quality agencies of the other Autonomous Communities and the National Agency, ANECA in order to consider jointly whether, in the interests of supporting the academic autonomy of the Universities, including the Galician Universities, greater responsibility for the development of internal quality assurance systems should be devolved to the Universities while the Agency retains responsibility for the quality assurance of the University's internal quality arrangements
- check periodically the information needs of students, sponsors employers and Universities as users of its reports, and how its reports can better meet their needs
- set out a five year strategic plan and forecast budgets for presentation to its Board of Directors in order to plan its capacity to deliver its growing programme of external reviews

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- update its Mission Statement to take account of the Guidelines that accompany ENQA Criterion 4/ESG 3.5 and publish the updated Mission Statement, setting out the division of labour and responsibilities between itself and the Universities and explaining how its Mission is translated into a clear policy and management plan via its Strategic Plan
 - consider as it moves to have its new Statutes enacted whether one of the membership positions for the CGIACA should be reserved for a suitably qualified person from outside Galicia
 - set out clear statements protocols and procedures for the conduct of appeals against the findings of its reviews and evaluations and publish them on its web site (page 53)
 - provide clear statements and protocols, procedures and guidance for its Advisory Council to enable it to fulfil its roles