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Director Achim Hopbach  
Agency For Quality Assurance and Accreditation Austria  
Renngasse, 5 A-1010 Vienna  
Austria

Dublin, 27 June 2014

**Subject: Full membership of AQ Austria in ENQA**

Dear Achim,

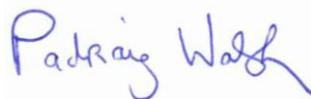
I am pleased to inform you that, at its meeting of 18 June 2014, the Board of ENQA agreed to reconfirm AQ Austria Full membership of ENQA for five years from that date.

Though the ENQA Board concluded that AQ Austria 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 June 2016.

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

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

Yours sincerely,



Padraig Walsh  
President of ENQA

**Annex:** Areas for development

## **Annex: Areas for development**

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

- Modify properly the intensity of the evaluation process depending on the effectiveness of the IQA system applied, independently from the type of HEI;
- Design a transparent criteria for amendments of accreditation procedures, depending on the type of amendment requested, since it is not perfectly understood by the HEIs;
- The implication of negative results in the audit process for public universities should be made more transparent;
- Increase the availability of information about the assessment reports for all stakeholders;
- Establish an adequate follow-up procedure for audit in public universities;
- System-wide analysis should be performed and results should be published;
- Medium-term goals have to be included in a strategic plan, as well as a risk management plan;
- Although an IQA system of AQ Austria is being developed right now, it is important to speed up the process of its implementation;
- It is desirable that AQ Austria develops its training opportunities for evaluators and continues to collaborate with ÖH in providing student evaluators and stakeholder consultancy. We recommend that joint trainings for all evaluators, including students, are considered.
- Due to the participation of international experts, careful preparation (training) is needed to understand properly the Austrian Higher Education system.