

Prof. Jasmina Havranek
Director
Agency for Science and Higher Education (ASHE)

Bonn, 1 February 2012

Subject: ENQA Full Membership of ASHE

Dear Professor Havranek,

I apologise for the delay in sending you this letter. I am pleased to let you know that, at its meeting of 5 October 2011, the Board of ENQA agreed to grant ASHE's Full membership of ENQA for five years from 5 October 2011.

On the basis of its scrutiny of the final review report on ASHE, the ENQA Board agreed that ASHE met the necessary requirements for being granted ENQA Full Membership.

However, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that, though the ENQA Board concluded that ASHE is in substantial compliance with the European Standards and Guidelines, it noted a discrepancy between the conclusion of the review panel and the evidence brought forward in the review report on the independence criterion.

Therefore, the Board would like to ask for clarifications on the legislation regarding the powers of the Minister on the decision whether to issue a licence or not. Indeed, the review report states that the Minister *could* interfere with a judgement from ASHE but has always followed the ASHE recommendations and decisions so far. The Board would like to know how the Agency is assured that the Minister always follows the recommendations, and how it can continue to be assured that there will be no interference in the future.

ASHE should also submit a progress report based on recommendations for improvement no later than October 2013.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me or the ENQA Secretariat. Please accept my congratulations to ASHE for being granted Full Membership in ENQA.

With kind regards,



Achim Hoppach
President of ENQA