To: Minister of Education and Research of Norway
Ms. Kristin Clemet

Copy to: Minister of Education, Culture and Science of Netherlands
Ms. Maria van der Hoeven

Subject: Application for membership to the Bologna Process

Dear Minister:

In the last few years, the European process has become a tangible reality for the European Countries and its citizens. The Republic of Armenia by joining the Council of Europe has stated its commitment to the European Processes and its willingness to undergo all the necessary reforms to become a full-fledged member state. The Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia being aware of the crucial role of education and cooperation for strengthening peaceful and stable democratic societies has embarked on the all-encompassing reform process of education and more specifically the reforms of higher education.

Clearly understanding that the Europe of Knowledge is acknowledged as an influential factor for human, social and thus economic development of the societies and being governed by the determination to meet all the requirements of Lisbon Convention and Bologna Declaration and to join the European Higher Education Area, the Draft Law on Higher and Post Graduate Education of the Republic of Armenia has envisioned a central role for the universities, which by assuming the responsibility for quality assurance, respecting the academic freedoms and institutional autonomy with fully developed self-governance, student participation in
the governance of higher education, public responsibility for higher education, assuring the inseparability of teaching and research, affirming the European humanist tradition and supporting a closer cooperation with their counterparts in Europe will come to the doorsteps of belonging to a common social and cultural European space.

Since gaining independence Armenia have made significant steps towards full integration of European structures; most notably with their accession to the Council of Europe. Reform of Education systems has been an important part of this process, to the benefit and credit of Armenia as well as individuals. Education continues to play an important role for sustainable development, since all societies, in particular those in transition, like in Armenia require the participation of informed and well-educated members or citizens in order to build stable democracies based on respect for human rights and the rule of law.

Ministers responsible for Higher Education of South Caucasus stress the wish to join Bologna Process in “Statement of the Ministers of Education of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia”, signed in Council of Europe Headquarters, Strasbourg, 17-18 May 2004. They particularly states:

“... Recognizing the importance of the reform of educational system, in particular underlining the necessity to continue the current processes of reform in its national context, the Ministers further emphasise the following priorities:
- Drafting and adoption of new legislation for higher education in line with European norms and standards;
- Reform of the higher education sector in light of the requirements of the Bologna process;
- Continue to support exchange of information and experience between the three Countries in the above-mentioned fields in order to facilitate their countries' integration into common European educational space.”

The accession to the European Higher Education Area will significantly promote the improvement of higher education in Armenia and the recognition of Armenian higher education qualifications in Europe.

Taking into account the need to implement the basic principles of accession to the Bologna process in higher education system of Armenia, the following main strategic goals and issues are defined in Strategy of Higher Education, approved by Government of Armenia in 2003:

- To achieve the recognition of Armenia’s higher education degrees and qualifications and their comparability with relevant European higher educational Institutions qualifications and diplomas.
- To establish National Information Center on Academic Recognition and Mobility (ENIC)
- To bring into agreement Armenian higher education diploma supplements with the degrees developed in Europe.
- In higher educational institutions introduce a unified credit accumulation and transfer system, which will be compatible with the ECTS.
- To create favorable conditions and package of legislative amendments for unhindered movement of Armenian students from University to University and for international mobility.
- To join European cooperation programs in the sphere of higher education quality assessment and accreditation.
- To develop cooperation with the European Network for Quality Assurance.
- To bring the current accreditation criteria and mechanisms into compliance with the European standards established under the European accreditation platform.
- To develop bilateral and multilateral programs between Armenian and European higher educational institutions, common models, courses, and to create majors and joint degrees of higher education qualification.
- To implement curricula refreshment, in order to converge curricula and study plans with the European standards.

Lisbon Convention creates a legal ground for mutual recognition of qualifications for the whole European region. On the other hand, the sample Diploma Supplement developed by the European Commission, Council of Europe and UNESCO creates a mechanism for the recognition and evaluation of individual qualification in foreign countries. Thus the Ministry of Education and Science developed all necessary documents and passed Lisbon Convention to the National Assembly for ratification until the end of this year.

The Ministry of Education and Science of Armenia once again pleased to confirm his adherence to the principles of Bologna Process. On behalf of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia, I would like to guarantee you of our compliance with the principles of Bologna Process, willingness to pursue and implement the objectives of the Bologna Process in the system of higher education of Armenia.

Honorable Minister, please accept my highest consideration and reassurance of our efforts for further cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

Sergo Yeritsyan
Dear Ms. CLEMET,

After the collapse of the Soviet Union Azerbaijan declared its independence in 1991 and during the latest 13 years our country made significant steps towards integration into international community. Cooperation with European countries is one of the top priority directions in the implementation of integration process.

Azerbaijan carries out fruitful bilateral cooperation with many European countries, as well as with such international organizations as European Union, Council of Europe, OSCE, UNESCO etc. In this view, I'd like to point out our successful cooperation with European countries in the sphere of education.

In 1997 Azerbaijan signed the Council of Europe/UNESCO Convention on Recognition of Qualifications Concerning Higher Education in the European Region and was among the first countries which ratified it. As far as the cooperation in the field of education is concerned, I'd like to mention our close cooperation with the European Union and Council of Europe within the framework of TEMPUS/TACIS programme and joint projects in different spheres of education.

At the same time, we realise that development of successful cooperation within European region will not be possible without taking into consideration provisions of Bologna process, which aims at facilitating integration process in the field of higher education in Europe. Our specialists in educational sphere are well aware of the content of Bologna process and the Government of Azerbaijan is very much interested in joining the Bologna Declaration. Radical reforms implemented in our country with regard to structure and content of education provide solid basis for our participation in Bologna process.

In this view, you are kindly requested to render your assistance in admitting Azerbaijan to Bologna process. I hope, positive decision related to our application will be taken during the high level meeting in Bergen in May 2005.

Electronic version of our official Report compiled in accordance with appropriate template is submitted to BFUG Chair and BFUG Secretariat.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I renoue assurances of my highest consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Minister of Education

REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

Misir MARDANOV

AZ1008 Baku, Xatai prospekti, 49. Telefon: 7(8922) ve ya (99412) 96-06-47. Faks: 7(8922) ve ya (99412) 96-34-83, 96-34-90
www.min.edu.az, e-mail: edu_min@azeri.com
Dear Ms. Kristin Clemet,

It is a special privilege for me to address Your Excellency on this vitally important occasion for Georgia. I am glad to notice that for the last decade, a number of progressive measures were undertaken within the education system of Georgia and particularly, within the higher education system. Currently, the pace of the reform process has been significantly accelerated. Our ultimate goal is join the Bologna Process and become its fully-fledged member.

In order to demonstrate our strong commitment to the process, I would like to highlight a number of decisive steps implemented in the course of educational restructuring. To date, practically all the higher education institutions have moved to the two-cycle degree system. The accreditation process is already underway and the diploma supplement as well as the European Credit Transfer System will be introduced into Georgian universities by 2005.

It is particularly noteworthy that the draft Law on Higher Education that had been elaborated in close cooperation with international experts is already submitted to the Parliament and I strongly believe that it will be adopted later this year.

In addition, administrative and structural changes occurred within the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia and highly qualified and motivated personnel had been recruited. Presently, the state priority in all areas of activity is to ensure the smooth integration of Georgia with Europe.

Taking into consideration our strong commitment to the Bologna principles, I would like to address Your Excellency with the request to consider this application of Georgia at the next Ministerial Conference in Bergen, 2005.

Once again, let me extend my profound appreciation and hope for further cooperation on our path to 'Europe of Knowledge'.

The National Report of Georgia will be forwarded later this month.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Alexander Lomai

Minister
Dear Mr Ian McKena,

Subject: Proclamation of the Republic of Moldova intention to sign the Bologna Declaration.

In the context of the international tendencies towards integration and globalization, the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Moldova highly appreciates the efforts undertaken by EU countries to establish the European Higher Education Area by 2010. The Ministry considers it to be of utmost importance for Moldovan higher education development to achieve the objectives stipulated by the Bologna Declaration.

During the past few years a number of national and international conferences have been organized on the initiative of the Ministry of Education in partnership with Moldovan higher education institutions. Representatives from Council of Europe, experts from UNESCO, EUA and other international organizations have taken part at these conferences and seminars. Discussions and activities have focused mainly on the issues of reconstruction and modernization of the higher educational system of Moldova in compliance with principles and requirements of the Bologna Process.

Our commitment to common European educational values was also expressed at the Conferences of Ministers in Germany, Berlin (September 18-19, 2003), in Greece, Athens (November 11-13, 2003) and at other recent international events such as: UNESCO-CEPES seminar, Ukraine, Kiev (June 13-14).
Last years some structural reforms underwent in Moldova, in order to adjust the system of higher education to the Bologna Process principles. The major objectives of these structural reforms are the following:

- Improvement of the quality of higher education in Moldova;
- Granting of equal opportunities to all citizens who want to obtain higher education;
- Updating of the national curriculum for higher education;
- Quality assurance through the system of accreditation and certification;
- Application of evaluation through the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS);
- Assurance of opportunities for academic mobility;
- Elaboration and introduction of the Diploma Supplement.

During 2004 the Ministry of Education has initiated the elaboration of a new Law of Education and the National Strategy of Higher Education for 2004-2010. The goal of these documents is to adjust the Moldovan system of higher education to the common European standards. For the academic year 2004-2005 it is envisaged to widely adopt the system of higher education based on two cycles, as stipulated by the Bologna Declaration. We are aware of the fact, that adjusting of the national system of higher education to the European standards requires tremendous efforts from all stakeholders of the educational process.

With reference to the above we ask you kindly to view this letter as a statement of our earnest intention to sign the Bologna Declaration. In line with this, by September 2004, the Ministry of Education intends to submit to the Bologna Follow-up Group the Action Plan of reforms, which will be carried out during 2004-2010.

Thereupon, we hope for your assistance and consultations concerning the procedures and the reports that are to be submitted.

We would also appreciate the inclusion of the Republic of Moldova to the events preceding the next Conference of Ministers responsible for Higher Education - Norway 2005.

Sincerely Yours,

Valentin BENIUC
Minister of Education
Засвідчую Вам свою повагу і маю честь звернутися з проханням прийняти клопотання Міністерства освіти і науки України щодо приєднання системи вищої освіти України до Болонського процесу.
Прийміть мої щирі запевнення, що Україна зробить достойний внесок у розбудову європейського простору в сфері вищої освіти.
Відповідальною особою за здійснення всіх необхідних заходів щодо входження України у Болонський процес від Міністерства освіти і науки України мною призначено заступника Міністра освіти і науки України Степка Михайла Филимоновича. Його телефон: (38) 044 216-28-80, факс: (38) 044 216-28-76, e-mail: ministry@mon.gov.ua.
Користуючись нагодою, прийміть вельмишановний пане Ніборг, запевнення в моїй високій повазі.

Міністр

[Подпис]

В.Г.Кремень
Paying my homages to you, I have the honour of addressing you with the request to accept the application of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine for accession of Ukraine’s higher education system to the Bologna process.

Please accept my sincere assurances that Ukraine will make its commendable contribution into the development of the European higher education area.

I have assigned Deputy Minister of Education and Science Stepko Mykhailo Filimonovych as the person responsible for the implementation of all measures relating to Ukraine’s accession to the Bologna process to act on behalf of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine. His phone number is (38) +044 2162880, his fax number is (38) +044 2162876, and his E-mail address is ministry@mon.gov.ua.

Taking this opportunity, I extend my assurances for you, Mr. Nyborg, of my high respect.

Minister V. Kremen
Unofficial translation

to H.E. Minister of Education
and Research of the Kingdom
of Norway

Mrs. Kristin Clemet

The Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine is honoured to express our respect and gratitude to you for organising the work of international experts at the Ukraine’s National Report on the Implementation of the Bologna Process.

We would ask you to express our gratitude to the reviewers of the Report for their professional work.

We think that their remarks about our Report are well-grounded and interesting. While reconsidering the Report, we tried to take them into account in every possible way, though restrictions imposed of the format of the report did not always permit us to detail our corrections in accordance with the remarks expressed by the experts. However, necessary information can be obtained from the appendices to the Report.

We are sending you the final version of the Report. We are honoured to confirm our intention to join the member-countries of the Bologna process and ask you to support us.

In our turn, the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine will consistently implement all progressive rules that are envisaged by the Bologna Declaration.

Taking an opportunity, the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine reaffirms our high respect to you and wishes you merry Christmas and happy New Year.


Minister

Vasyl Kremen
Від 24.12.04 № 112-5039
На № ____________ від ____________

її Високоповажності
Міністеру освіти і досліджень Королівства Норвегія
пани Крістін Клемет

Міністерство освіти і науки України засвідчує Вам свою повагу і має честь висловити щиру вдячність за організацію роботи міжнародних експертів над Національною доповіддю України щодо імплементації принципів Болонського процесу.

Просимо подякувати від нашого імені рецензентам Доповіді за їх професійну роботу.

Вважаємо, що зауваження і пропозиції, висловлені нами до нашої Доповіді, є досить слушними і цікавими і ми, доопрацюючи її, працюли максимально використати їх, хоч встановлені обмеження щодо формату Доповіді не завжди дозволяли в повній мірі деталізувати наші доповнення відповідно до побажань експертів. Однак всю необхідну додаткову інформацію можна буде отримати з текстів додатків до Доповіді.

Надсилаємо остаточний варіант Доповіді і маємо честь підтвердити свої наміри приєднатися до країн-учасниць Болонського процесу і просити Вас підтримати нас.

Зі свого боку Міністерство освіти і науки України поспільно забезпечуватиме реалізацію всього прогресивного, що передбачає Болонська Декларація.

Користуючись нагодою, Міністерство освіти і науки України поновлює Вам, пани Міністр, запевнення у своїй високій повазі і передає найкращі побажання до Різдва Христового та Новового Року.

Додаток: Національна доповідь України щодо імплементації принципів Болонського процесу; Закони України “Про освіту” і “Про вищу освіту”.

Міністр В.Г.Кремень
Note № 859/2004

The Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan presents its compliments to the Ministry of Education and Research of the Kingdom of Norway and has the honour to forward the letter of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan Mr. Zh. Kulekeyev addressed to the Minister of Education and Research of the Kingdom of Norway Mrs. K. Clemet regarding the application of Kazakhstan to join the Bologna Process.

The Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministry of Education and Research of the Kingdom of Norway the assurances of its highest consideration.

Encl.: as above – 14 pp.

London, 22 December 2004

Ministry of Education and Research of the Kingdom of Norway
Akersg. 44, 0032 Oslo
Norway
Sincerely,

Minister,

Zh. Kulekeyev

The Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan presents its compliments to the Ministerial Conference and has the honor to submit the application to join the Bologna Process. The integration into global educational space is considered to be of primary objective for the Ministry. The direction of development of the national education has the honor to avails itself of this opportunity to renew to you the assurances in its highest consideration.

H.E. U. Toernes
CC: Minister of Education and Research of Norway

H.E. K. Clemet
To:       His Excellency, François Biltgen  
         Minister of Culture, Education and Research  
         Luxemburg

         Her Excellency, Kristin Clemet  
         Ministry of Education and Research  
         Postbox 8119 Dep  
         NO-0032 Oslo, Norway

Cc:       Mr. Germain Dondelinger  
         Chair of the Board of the Bolonga Follow-up Group  
         E-mail: germain.dondelinger@mcesr.etat.lu

         Bologna Secretariat  
         E-mail: Bologna@ufd.dep.no

From:     Agim Veliu, Minister

Subject:  Application of Kosovo for full membership in the Bologna Process

Your Excellency,

Speaking on behalf of the entire Kosovar academic community, allow me to express our willingness and determination to become part of the European Area of Higher Education and of the European Research Area through full membership of Kosovo to the Bologna Process. We consider that the forthcoming meeting of European ministers of higher education in Bergen is a wonderful opportunity for the European family of academic communities to fully open its doors of integration to our institutions of higher education by inviting us to join the (currently) forty signatory countries of the Bologna Process.

We strongly believe that the recent history of our system of higher education has proven that we deserve to become part of this large European academic family that started small in June of 1999 in Bologna.

Therefore, based on authority vested on me according to the Law on Higher Education (2003/14) and in compliance with all relevant legal documents, in accordance with policies developed and decisions taken by the Kosovar/UNMIK authorities so far, we, the Ministry of Education, Science
and Technology on behalf of the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government, herewith formally file an application for full membership of Kosova to the Process of Bologna.

As you can see from our national report (attached to this application), in spite of the dire financial limitations, during the last five years, Kosovo has undertaken significant efforts and achieved respectable results in all aspects of the Process of Bologna. This, we believe, allows us to look optimistically towards the ministerial meeting in Bergen in May 2005.

Convinced that, as in many times so far, we will receive the support from friends, and also in full conviction that we deserve this support, we remain,

Very truly Yours,

___________________
Agim Veliu, minister