

Updates on ESIB actions

European Student Convention

ESIB held its 11th European Student Convention in Vienna between 10-13th March. The convention focused on the Higher Education within the Lisbon strategy of the European Union and was attended by most ESIB members. The convention aimed both at training the members in working with the Lisbon strategy and to form a clearer ESIB opinion on the Lisbon strategy. The convention resulted in a statement that was distributed to the ministers attending the informal Ministerial meeting 16-17th March. The statement is attached to this report.

ESIB statement on the Financial Perspectives for the years 2007 to 2013

ESIB have written a statement regarding the budget of the European Union. ESIB supports the decision by the European Parliament to reject the budget for 2007 to 2013 proposed by the European Council. We are deeply concerned that an increase of less than 1% in finances for education is insufficient to properly support all processes and changes that are currently happening in the European Education Area.

ESIB believes that in order to achieve any of the goals the union has in the area of education, the Heads of State and Government have to support education with a lot more than just promises. ESIB wants the European Council to reconsider their decision on the budget for 2007-2013 and to take measures to substantially increase the finances for education, in order to meet the upcoming challenges. ESIB encourages the European Parliament and its committees to strive for an improved financial situation in the budget for Education within the negotiations between the EU institutions.

The statement can be found at www.esib.org

The situation for students in Belarus

ESIB is continuously very concerned about the situation for students in Belarus. We are at the moment following the development of situation for Taciana Khoma who was expelled before Christmas. We are also following and trying to work on the situation for two other students that recently got expelled from their studies. Apart from that ESIB is also developing a more long term strategy on how to work with the situation for students in Belarus in general.

Upcoming events

ESIB board meeting 50, Belgrade, Serbia, 7-15th May. The seminars preceding the board meeting will focus on Students rights and student participation.

12th European Student Convention, Finland, 12-16th October. This convention will deal with the issue of the Higher Education after 2010.

We are apart from this working on a number of trainings for our members on the Bologna Process.