

## **Commissioner European Commissioner for Education, Training, Culture and Youth Jan Figel: Closing Statement**

These two days in London have demonstrated once more the strength of the Bologna Process as a voluntary process, led by the governments, who are responsible for organising their education and training systems, but implemented and co-organised by the higher education sector: institutions, students and staff.

I welcome the green light for the European Register of Quality Assurance Agencies, which will raise the credibility of our common effort to build a European Higher Education Area attractive for Europeans and for students and scholars from other continents.

I am very pleased with the adoption of the external dimension strategy, which contains many concrete suggestions and ideas for cooperation, promotion and partnerships at global level. We do not want a “Fortress Europe”. We want close ties with our neighbours in Europe and beyond, we want to share experiences with them and learn from each other.

Here in London, we have witnessed an unprecedented global interest for European Higher Education, with all continents represented at our table and many countries knocking on our door. This is a great compliment for all of us, but it is also a big responsibility to get our house in order, to implement the remaining reforms rapidly and consistently and to enable our universities to be strong players in the global knowledge society.

I want to assure you of the European Commission’s continuing support. We will use our policies and our programmes to support governments and institutions as they innovate and reform their higher education sectors.

I wish to congratulate our British hosts and the German Presidency for this successful conference and I wish all of us the courage we need to fulfil our common objectives. Thank you for your kind attention.