

VOTING ON THE VENUE FOR THE 2009 MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

Introduction

1. Following the discussion at the June Board about the possibility of having to vote on who should host the 2009 Ministerial conference, Sjur Bergan produced a paper detailing some of the issues which would have to be addressed before such a vote took place. This paper invites the Board's views on a suggested voting procedure, based on the points highlighted.

Voting procedure

2. A suggested voting procedure is outlined below:

- Eligible to vote: the European Commission (EC) and all BFUG country members, with exception of those bidding to host the event (Benelux countries; Croatia; and Slovak Republic)
- Votes will be cast by the regular BFUG representatives, on behalf of the Minister (s) concerned
- Number of votes: two per eligible country and the EC
- Majority: selection will be by simple majority
- In the event of a tie, the Chair will draw lots
- Quorum: the number of votes received by the agreed deadline
- Voting procedure: ballot papers to be sent by post to the Secretariat in London
- Mandate: the ballot paper will include an explicit statement that the vote has been submitted on behalf of the Minister(s) concerned
- Acceptance by bidding countries: the Ministers of the Benelux countries, Croatia and Slovak Republic will be asked to write to the Chair of BFUG agreeing to abide by the outcome of the vote (a letter for this purpose will be prepared by the Secretariat)
- The Chair will write to all Ministers and BFUG representatives before the October BFUG, advising on the voting procedure and confirming that the countries concerned have agreed to the procedure
- The Chair of BFUG will write to all Ministers, advising on the outcome of the vote and therefore who will host the 2009 Ministerial conference.

- Timescale: votes to be submitted to the Secretariat by 31 December 2006.

Conclusion

The Board is invited to:

- comment on and agree the voting procedure.

Bologna Secretariat
18 August 2006