



CONGREGATIO
DE INSTITUTIONE CATHOLICA

General Conclusions and Propositions

BOLOGNA PROCESS OFFICIAL SEMINAR
30 March – 1 April 2006
Vatican City

The Cultural Heritage and Academic Values of the European University and the Attractiveness of the European Higher Education Area

ORGANIZED BY THE HOLY SEE

IN COLLABORATION WITH:

ASSOCIATION OF RECTORS OF PONTIFICAL UNIVERSITIES

PONTIFICAL ACADEMIES OF SCIENCES

UNESCO—CEPES

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Persuaded as they were that the external dimension of the Bologna Process must take seriously its responsibility to make the European university attractive to the nations of the continent as well as the rest of the world, the Seminar participants suggested that intelligent marketing strategies be adopted to ensure that this take place.

This Seminar, therefore, proposed that, in creating the European Higher Education Area as a driving force in making Europe strong, stable and sustainable and preparing it to take a leading role in the *world* of higher education, the Ministers at the 2007 London meeting affirm:

- (1) the indispensable and irreplaceable role played by the European university – despite the increasing presence of other delivery systems of education – in contributing to the integration of Europe and the formation of a wisdom society;
- (2) their commitment to the cultural heritage of Europe as a living and expanding tradition which the university receives, enriches and transmits to succeeding generations; moreover, this tradition is rich in humanistic values that support the scientific and technological demands of advanced democratic societies;
- (3) the need to foster increased accessibility in order to increase capacity, without sacrificing excellence, especially in research, an excellence proper not to just a few elite institutions but distributed in numerous centres of excellence in different areas of study and research;
- (4) the core values of institutional autonomy, academic freedom, collegiality/community and cooperation/exchange among institutions as necessary components of the European university's competitive advantage in the global marketplace and thus instruments at the service of society;
- (5) the positive value of unity in diversity and diversity in unity as a way to foster interaction, interdisciplinary studies and dialogue among different cultural and religious traditions;
- (6) the conviction that religious faith marks the various national cultures of Europe in their literature, architecture, approach to human rights and other crucial matters, and that questions of meaning and ethical responsibility should be recognized within the university's programmes and research projects.

If the affirmations of the Seminar are implemented, the EHEA will be in the position to attract the best scholars and students from this continent and around the world.