

BOLOGNA SUPPORT MEASURES 2002

(approved by the Socrates Committee 7/8 November 2001)

A. INTRODUCTION

The Bologna declaration contained six action lines and the Prague communiqué added three more (see Annex). Most action lines coincide with Commission policies, supported through the Socrates programme over the years (credits, mobility, co-operation, quality). Others belong to the exclusive competencies of the Member States (notably the introduction of a two cycle degree system).

The Commission envisages a series of measures to support the objectives of the Bologna process through the Actions of the Socrates programme. This note concentrates on new measures with a budgetary impact in 2002. Possible measures for future years are presented in Section C.

B. NEW MEASURES 2002

1) Promoting a "quality culture" within universities

A pilot scheme, set up in co-operation with the European University Association EUA, to help universities to introduce internal quality assurance mechanisms and enable them to improve their quality levels and be better prepared for external evaluations. In 2002 there would be a launching conference and the start of the pilot scheme.

2) European evaluation

A pilot scheme in order to experience what European transnational evaluation would mean on a voluntary basis, covering study programmes leading to regulated professions (such as medical doctors) and non-regulated professions (such as business managers). The pilot scheme, to be carried out by the respective Thematic Networks, would start with three disciplines in 2002-2003 and would build on the outcomes of the Tuning project and the experiences of the ENQA network. In 2002 there would be a launching conference and the start of the pilot scheme.

3) European Masters

Well defined and supported European Masters can contribute to the quality and visibility of European Higher Education for Europe's own citizens and for students from around the world. A survey launched in 2001 will provide clarity on typologies. A pilot scheme, with the involvement of the European University Association, will monitor good practice in the running of up to ten existing European Masters in the academic year 2002-2003. The year 2002 would see a launching conference and the start of the pilot scheme. The possibility of scholarships for third country students funded by other Commission programmes will be explored.