

**Media Invitation**

Brussels, 7 March 2017

**Last chance to register for EUA Annual Conference  
“Autonomy and freedom: The future sustainability of universities”  
(6-7 April, Bergen, Norway)**

Time is running out to register for the European University Association’s (EUA) [2017 Annual Conference](#) on “**Autonomy and freedom: The future sustainability of universities**,” hosted by the University of Bergen in Norway from 6 to 7 April 2017. The last day to register is 20 March.

EUA has become one of the most important actors in the fields of university autonomy and academic freedom through its numerous activities, as well as through its exclusive benchmarking tool, the [Autonomy Scorecard](#). The 2017 Annual Conference will focus on how these fields are linked to addressing the current political, economic and societal challenges in Europe. It will also feature the launch of a full-scale update of the Scorecard, which will provide the backdrop for a discussion on the latest trends, challenges and future of autonomy and academic freedom in Europe.

The Norwegian Minister of Education and Research, Torbjørn Røe Isaksen, will be among the high-level speakers invited to discuss the impact of recent change on university governance, funding, human resources and academic matters, as well as the appropriate forms of accountability in relation to autonomy and freedom. The list of diverse speakers from across Europe, including institutional leaders, policy makers and stakeholders, is available on [the EUA website](#).

In a unique highlight, the event will offer a “Hot Topic” session on the experiences of universities in welcoming refugee students and researchers. In response to the crisis, European universities have launched hundreds of initiatives in order to assist and integrate refugees. This session is closely linked to [EUA’s Refugees Welcome Map](#), which showcases the extensive work the university community is doing to aid students and scholars who have been displaced.

Please note that **EUA will waive conference fees for journalists**. Prior registration is necessary as the number of places is limited. Unfortunately EUA cannot pay accommodation or travel costs for this event.

**To register and for more information please contact:**

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For more details or to view the preliminary programme, [please visit the conference webpage](#).

Follow the event on Twitter under #EUA2017Bergen.

*The European University Association (EUA) is the representative organisation of more than 800 universities in 47 European countries and 33 national rectors’ conferences (NRCs). The EUA Council is made up of the president, the members of the Board, and of the presidents of all of Europe’s NRCs. EUA works closely with its members to ensure that the voice of European universities is heard.*