

**EUA 3rd Convention of European Higher Education Institutions
“Strong Universities for Europe”
Glasgow, UK, 31 March – 2 April 2005**

Welcome to the Convention, for all questions and information please contact

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Press Conferences

Thursday 31 March 16.00-16.30, Senate Room

Ján Figel, European Commissioner for Education, Training, Culture and Multilingualism
Kim Howells MP, Minister of State for Lifelong Learning, Further and Higher Education,
Department for Education and Skills, UK
Georg Winckler, EUA President
Andrew Hamnett, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, University of Strathclyde
Ian Johnston, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Glasgow Caledonian University
Muir Russell, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, University of Glasgow

Saturday 2 April 13.00-13.30, Senate Room

José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission
Georg Winckler, EUA President

Press facilities

The Archives Room (near Registration) is reserved for journalists.
Internet access is available in the university library across the street.

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The changing role of universities is a topic of intense debate, both at the national and European level. Universities are asked to contribute to the knowledge society by providing access to an increasing number and wider variety of learners and through innovative research. At the same time, the impact of growing competition at national and international level is being felt by virtually all higher education institutions in Europe. We are also at the halfway point of the Bologna Process and the creation of a European Higher Education Area in 2010 in which the important role of institutions and students in implementing the reforms is increasingly recognised.

The European University Association, as the main voice of the European higher education community, holds its third Convention in Glasgow to discuss and make recommendations for enabling universities to meet the conflicting demands placed upon them. Over 600 participants from throughout Europe (university heads, partners and stakeholders) will attend.

The Glasgow Declaration

The outcomes of the Glasgow discussions will feed into the Glasgow Declaration that will be presented to the European Education Ministers who are meeting in Bergen in May to assess progress to date in the Bologna Process and agree an action plan for the next two years. The Glasgow Declaration needs to reflect a strong, united message from the European higher education community offering clear and ambitious recommendations. EUA intends to send a clear signal to the Education Ministers that institutions have the capacity and commitment to confront these challenges and to ensure that the reforms underway are fully implemented. The success of the Convention depends upon the engagement and determination of higher education leaders in Europe who must seize this unique opportunity to make their collective voice heard.

Trends IV

Since 1999, EUA (and its predecessor organisation) has been involved in producing a report on the state of play in European Higher Education every 2 years for each of the Bologna Ministerial meetings. The Trends IV report, based on site visits conducted in 48 institutions in 28 countries, builds upon the findings of the 2003 report (Trends III) and aims to represent and reflect accurately the reality of how higher education institutions across Europe are responding to the ongoing Bologna reforms. The report provides an overview of the progress made and the challenges that remain based on the current reality within institutions.

Trends IV will be presented by EUA at the Ministerial meeting in Bergen in May 2005 as a contribution to the so-called mid-term “stocktaking” of the Bologna Process. This is of particular importance, as it will be the only means through which the perspective of institutions from institutions will be heard and can impact on the policy discussions among Ministers.

European Commission President José Manuel Barroso

The President of the European Commission will close the EUA Convention in Glasgow on Saturday 2 April. His presence demonstrates the importance the Commission attaches at the highest level to universities and to their contribution to building Europe in a number of key policy areas. This will be a unique opportunity for participants to learn more about the European Commission’s plans for refocusing the Lisbon strategy through increasing support to education, research and innovation. With recent proposals concerning higher education and research policy, such as the creation of a European Institute of Technology, and decisions to be taken soon on the future European research policy and programmes, EUA is delighted that President Barroso will address Europe’s university leaders at this critical time.

The European University Association

EUA is the representative organisation of more than 750 higher education institutions and National Rectors' Conferences, including Universities UK, in 45 countries across Europe.

EUA promotes the development of a coherent system of European higher education and research at European level that balances competitiveness and excellence with social cohesion and access, therefore actively pursuing the objectives of the Lisbon agenda.

EUA's role is to demonstrate the contribution of universities to society, in particular through engagement with partners in the two main political processes ongoing in Europe at present: the creation of a European Higher Education Area (EHEA) by 2010, known as the Bologna Process, and the development of the European Research Area (ERA). EUA's unique position enables it to make the link between the two, often separate processes, through the dual mission of its member universities, namely teaching and research.

EUA is active in the development of higher education policy in Europe working with the EU institutions and other key partners to promote sustainable reform, and ensuring that universities participate fully in the Bologna Process and its follow-up bodies. The Association also works increasingly in the area of European research policy, with the aim of emphasising the crucial role of the university in strengthening Europe's research capacity and promoting the development of the knowledge society.

Activities

Besides this political role, EUA carries out projects in key areas to encourage cooperation with and between its members, and gain hands-on knowledge and an in-depth understanding of the crucial issues facing universities in Europe, expertise that can be then fed into the Association's policy work.

Current and recently completed EUA projects include:

- Trends IV - fourth in a series of biannual reports providing up-to-date information on higher education developments in Europe (available in April 2005);
- Doctoral Programmes – an identification of the essential conditions for successful programmes across Europe with the aim of facilitating the exchange of good practice, promoting cooperation and mutual learning;
- Joint Masters – an examination of the elements of Masters programmes involving different institutions in different countries in order to facilitate good practice;
- Quality Culture – now in its third round, the project aims to contribute to the development and embedding of a systematic and coherent quality culture in universities.

In addition, EUA organises regular thematic conferences and training sessions to enable the discussion and dissemination of information on key issues for its members and the wider European higher education community.

Further information

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See www.eua.be for a complete overview of EUA and its activities, including an extensive document library of policy papers, reports and press releases.

Biographies – Speakers at the press conferences Thurs 31 March and Sat 2 April

José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission

Born in Lisbon on 23 March 1956.

Academic career

Degree in law, with honours, from the Law Faculty of the University of Lisbon.

Diploma in European Studies, with honours, from the European University Institute, University of Geneva.

Master's degree in Political Science, with honours, from the Department of Political Science, Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences, University of Geneva, with a thesis on "*Le système politique portugais face à l'intégration européenne*".

Internships and short courses at Columbia University (New York), Georgetown University (Washington, D.C.), the International University Institute (Luxembourg) and the European University Institute (Florence).

Successively, teaching assistant at the Law Faculty of the University of Lisbon, teaching assistant at the Department of Political Science, University of Geneva, and visiting professor at the Department of Government and School of Foreign Service (Center for German and European Studies), Georgetown University, Washington, D.C. (1996-1998). Head of the International Relations Department, Lusíada University (October 1995 - March 1999).

Scholarships from the Swiss Confederation, the Commission of the European Communities, the Volkswagenwerk Foundation, NATO and the Swiss National Fund for Scientific Research.

Founder of the University Association for European Studies in 1979.

Political career

President of the Academic Association of the Law Faculty, University of Lisbon (1975-1976).

Member of the European Movement since 1991, when the Portuguese section was relaunched.

Member of the Social Democratic Party (PSD) since 1980; formerly member of the PSD's National Council, member of the National Policy Committee, co-director of the National Studies Bureau and Chairman of the International Relations Committee; elected President of the Party by the XXII Congress in May 1999, and re elected three times.

Elected Member of Parliament six times consecutively since 1985, Chairman of the Portuguese Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee between 1995 and 1996.

State Secretary for Home Affairs in the X Constitutional Government, State Secretary for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation and Minister for Foreign Affairs in the XI and XII Constitutional Governments. Prime Minister in the XV Constitutional Government since April 2002.

Led and took part in a number of international missions, including in the self determination process in East Timor and the peace process in Angola in 1990/1991, head of the International IDEA (Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, Stockholm) delegation to Bosnia and Herzegovina in September 1996, and adviser to the UN for the Project for Peace Process in Africa (Tanzania), October 1997.

Member of various informal advisory groups to the Secretary General of the United Nations, including the Secretary General's Resource Group on the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Vice President of the European People's Party from 1999 until 2002 and Vice President of the Center Democrats International since 2001.

President Barroso has written a number of publications and articles on political science, international relations and European Union issues.

He holds over twenty decorations or prizes, notably including Portugal's Grã-Cruz da Ordem Militar de Cristo in 1996 and was named Global Leader for Tomorrow by the World Economic Forum in 1993.

Ján Figel, European Commissioner for Education, Training, Culture and Multilingualism

Ján Figel, born in January 1960, studied power electronics at the Technical University of Košice. After a career as a research and development scientist in this area for more than 10 years, he studied international relations at the Georgetown University in Washington and European economic integration at the UFSIA Antwerp.

His political career began in 1992 when he became member of the National Council of the Slovak Republic and from this time his career has demonstrated his dedication to the European ideal. He was the chief negotiator for the accession of the Slovak Republic to the European Union. Since 1 May 2004, Ján Figel' has been a member of the European Commission and is now responsible for education, training, culture and multilingualism.

Kim Howells MP, Minister of State for Lifelong Learning, Further and Higher Education at the Department for Education and Skills, UK

Dr Howells holds a BA from Hornsey College of Art, a CAT from Cambridge University and a PhD from Warwick University.

Before entering Parliament as MP for Pontypridd following a by-election in 1989, Dr Howells was Editor and Researcher for the 'South Wales Miner' and a television and radio writer and presenter.

He was appointed Higher Education Minister in September 2004. He was Transport Minister in 2003-4, Culture minister in 2001-03 and was previously Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Trade and Industry (1998 - 2001) and the Department for Education and Employment (1997 - 1998).

Kim Howells is a Member of the British Mountaineering Council. He is President of Arthritis Care, Pontypridd, and of Taff Ely Drugs Support Group. He is also a Patron of the Dragon Swimming Club for Disabled.

Georg Winckler, EUA President, Rector Universität Wien, Austria; President, Austrian Rectors' Conference

Georg Winckler has been Rector of the University of Vienna since 1999, President of the Austrian Rectors' Conference since 2000 and Vice-President of the European University Association since 2001.

At present, he is mainly occupied with the implementation of the new Austrian Universities Act which came into force in 2002. The full legal independence of the Austrian universities will create new opportunities to actively change the framework of research and higher education

Prof. Winckler studied economics at the University of Princeton and at the University of Vienna. He has been a (full) professor of economics at the University of Vienna since 1978, specialising in monetary and applied Economics. He has also served as a visiting professor at Georgetown University, Université Fribourg, University of Bratislava and worked as a visiting scholar at the International Monetary Fund, Washington D.C. Since June 2004 Georg Winckler has been a member of EURAB (European Research Advisory Board).

Andrew Hamnett, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, University of Strathclyde

Professor Hamnett graduated from the University of Oxford with a BA (Chemistry) in 1970 and a D.Phil. (Chemistry) in 1973. He has held research and academic positions at the University of British Columbia, Canada, and at Oxford and Newcastle Universities, England, before his appointment in January 2001 as Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Strathclyde. A physical chemist by discipline, he has nearly 200 publications in books and scientific journals, covering areas of spectroscopy, quantum theory and electrochemistry. Professor Hamnett has a strong interest in European Higher Education and is currently Chairman of the European Consortium of Innovative Universities. He also has a keen interest in the development of strong links between universities and

industry, particularly with regard to regional re-generation, and has worked extensively with academic staff and industrial and financial companies to raise substantial sums of money for Seed Funds to spin off university companies and initiate graduate start-ups.

Ian Johnston, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Glasgow Caledonian University

Dr Ian Johnston is proud to lead a research oriented vocational access University which values social inclusion and the application of knowledge. After a PhD on the atomic structure of metals at Birmingham University he became a Civil Servant eventually leaving as Director General of Training, Education and Enterprise at the Department of Education and Employment in London. Before moving to Glasgow Caledonian he was Deputy Principal at Sheffield Hallam University and Chief Executive and Vice Chair of the University for Industry. Current interests include technology supported learning and employee relations.

Muir Russell, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, University of Glasgow

Sir Muir Russell became Principal of the University of Glasgow in October 2003, following an open competition. Prior to his appointment he was Permanent Secretary to the Scottish Executive since its establishment in July 1999, following devolution. He was born in 1949 and was educated at The High School of Glasgow and Glasgow University, where he took a first class honours degree in Natural Philosophy. He joined The Scottish Office in 1970. He was Secretary of the Scottish Development Agency on its establishment in Glasgow in 1975, and was Principal Private Secretary to The Secretary of State for Scotland (then George Younger) from 1981 to 1983.

He was seconded to the Cabinet Office in 1990, to be Head of the Home Affairs and Legislation Secretariat. On returning to The Scottish Office in 1992 he was appointed Head of the Housing Group including responsibility for chairing the Castlemilk Partnership, one of a number of important Scottish Office initiatives in urban regeneration. He also became responsible at that time for handling constitutional matters within The Scottish Office. From 1992 to 1995, as part of the civil service drive to give senior staff greater experience of business, he was a Non-Executive Director of Stagecoach Holdings plc.

In February 1995 he was promoted to be Secretary of The Scottish Office Agriculture and Fisheries Department. He was appointed Permanent Under Secretary of State at The Scottish Office in May 1998, following open competition.

He was elected as a fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 2000. He was awarded the honorary degrees of Doctor of Laws by the University of Strathclyde in 2000 and Doctor of the University by the University of Glasgow in 2001. He became a Companion of the Institute of Management in 2001. His KCB was awarded in 2001. He became a Fellow of the Institute of Physics in 2003 and he was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of the City of Glasgow in 2004.