

TOWARD A PERMANENT BOLOGNA SECRETARIAT?

BOLOGNA PROCESS RESEARCHERS' CONFERENCE

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FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE EHEA

- The Secretariat supports the BFUG and, more broadly, the EHEA
- Issues for the next decade:
 - Fundamental values
 - Structural reforms
 - Social dimension
 - Implementation
- All are arguments for a greater degree of independence from a specific national authority
- “Permanent”: ten year perspective

WHAT AND WHERE?

- Tasks: neutral support to the EHEA – BFUG
- Status
 - New intergovernmental organization?
 - NGO serving an intergovernmental process?
 - Example of EQAR
- Location
 - Freedom of operation (“foreign agents”)
 - Support from host country
 - Local law
 - Accessibility

WHO PAYS AND HOW?

- Member States
- European Commission?
- What does the budget cover?
- How much does each country pay?
- Safeguards against non-payment

WHO WORKS IN THE SECRETARIAT?

- International staff
 - Competence requirements
- Links to the host country
- Links to hosts of Ministerial conferences
- Head of Secretariat
- Duration of contracts
- Who hires and fires?
- Who pays social security and pensions?

CONCLUSIONS

- An international, “permanent” Secretariat an attractive option if:
 - The political will is there
 - Established as NGO
 - Budget decided by BFUG and based on priorities adopted by Ministers
 - Agreement on budget allocation and reserves
 - Accessible location with good support from host country
 - International staff with contracts beyond one Ministerial conference
 - Responsibility for employment clearly defined
 - Independent, but with working links to host country + hosts of Ministerial conferences