

Prof. Ervin Balázs  
President  
Hungarian Accreditation Committee (HAC)

Dublin, 17 January 2014

**Subject: External review of HAC and decision on membership**

Dear Professor Balázs,

I am writing to inform you of the decision taken by the ENQA Board on 29 November 2013 regarding the membership of HAC in ENQA.

As you know, the Board had already discussed the report of the review panel at its meeting of 28 October 2013 and I would like to thank you for the additional information you kindly provided regarding the criteria on resources and independence.

From your explanations, the Board came to the conclusion that, while the other criteria can be deemed as satisfactorily met, the level of compliance of criterion 3 (resources) and 5 (independence) is significantly lower.

Indeed, the financial instability (the budget allocation for the second half of the year had not been transferred yet at the beginning of November) and the fact that the Educational Authority might overturn a decision of HAC and grant programmes or institutions a licence to operate without HAC accreditation are a cause of concern for the Board.

In addition, the outcome of the discussion with the Secretary of State for Higher Education regarding the delegation and appointment of HAC members is still uncertain.

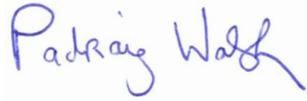
As substantial compliance with the membership criteria is required for full membership of ENQA, the Board cannot renew HAC's full membership at this moment. HAC will thus be designated as "ENQA Full member under review" for a period of two years from the 29<sup>th</sup> November 2013 and will need to undergo a new review process at the end of this period, or sooner, if HAC wishes.

If HAC is dissatisfied with the decision of the ENQA Board not to reconfirm membership, it may file an appeal according to the procedures outlined in article 38 of the Statutes of ENQA.

I would like to conclude by emphasising that the report confirmed the high professionalism of the Agency and its staff in conducting evaluation procedures. Since HAC has been a Full member for over 10 years, we hope that the two major aforementioned shortcomings identified in the review will be

addressed and substantially resolved in the next two years.

Yours sincerely,



Padraig Walsh  
President of ENQA