

PRESS RELEASE : 16TH MAY 2007

**Bologna Ministerial Meeting in London (17-18 May 2007):
Europe's universities demand greater autonomy and funding
in declaration to Education Ministers**

European universities will this week demand greater autonomy and increased funding in order to enable Europe to compete with the rest of the world. In a declaration to be presented to the 46 education ministers who will gather in London from 17-18th May for the Bologna Ministerial conference, by the European University Association (EUA), (the representative organisation of more than 750 European universities and the national rectors' conferences), universities will outline their vision for "Europe's Universities beyond 2010: Diversity with a common purpose".

Based on the recommendations made at the EUA's recent convention in Lisbon, "The EUA Lisbon declaration" outlines how universities across Europe plan to play a wider role in helping society meet the needs of the 21st century. "Autonomy is one of the key issues in the declaration," says EUA secretary general Lesley Wilson. "If we can't decide who to employ, and what to spend our money on, we are never going to be able to change."

EUA also believes that more autonomy would give universities more flexibility to adapt to our changing society and would boost university-business knowledge transfer and attract more private funding for universities.

The declaration focuses on five central themes:

- **Progress to building the European Higher Education Area (EHEA)**
- **Internationalisation of European Higher Education**
- **Promoting research and innovation**
- **Autonomy and funding**
- **Quality**

This declaration is available on the EUA website :
<http://www.eua.be/index.php?id=128>

The European University Association, as the representative organisation of both the European universities and the national rectors' conferences, is the main voice of the higher education community in Europe. EUA's mission is to promote the development of a coherent system of European higher education and research.

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