

2004 (4): Conference Brussels, 25-27 October 2004

Towards a transparency of qualifications

General outline of the theme

The European Network of Education Councils organises a conference in Brussels on the transparency of qualifications. How can the qualifications that citizens have or attain, become more comprehensible and, as a result, more useful throughout the European Union. This is a key objective of the Copenhagen-process. On its conference EUNEC will also investigate how the efforts for more transparency of qualifications and the validation of competences can improve citizenship and social cohesion.

Purpose and Range

The conference is meant for representatives of the education councils of EUNEC, representatives of European institutions active in the field of education, vocational training and the labour market; and persons invited by the Conseil de l' Education et de la Formation (CEF) and Vlaamse Onderwijsraad (Vlor).

The overall aim of the conference is debate and exchange of information to enrich the policy making process.

The European Union will present its points of view and the steps already taken towards transparency of qualifications, and its view on equity, citizenship and social cohesion.

EUNEC will raise the questions that live among the education councils of different member states of the Union.

On several occasions there will be time for debate between educationalists, social partners, civil servants and politicians on the instruments to create more transparency of qualifications and on the conditions these instruments should meet to improve citizenship and social cohesion.

Place and time

The conference takes place on two locations:

Monday 25th October 2004,

from 14.00 till 17.30

Parlement de la Région de Bruxelles-Capitale

Wednesday 27th October,

from 9.00 till 14.00

Rue Lombard 57

1005 Bruxelles

European Parliament

Tuesday 26th October,

from 8.30 till 18.00

Salle Eastman 300

Rue Béliard 135 (metro Schumann)

1047 Bruxelles

Programme

**MONDAY
OCTOBER 25**

THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

- 14.00** **Welcome**
- 14.30** **Introduction and chair**
- Mr. Fons van Wieringen**
 president of EUNEC
- 14.45 – 15.45** **The Copenhagen process as part of the Lisbon Process**
- by Mr. Jens Bjornavold**
 Vocational Training Policy Unit, DG Education and Culture, European Commission
- 15.45 – 16.00** **Question time**
- 16.00 – 16.45** **Equity, citizenship and social cohesion**
- by Mr. Domenico Lenarduzzi**
 honorary director-general - European Commission Education, Youth and Culture
- 16.45 – 17.00** **Question time**
- 17.00** **Presentation of the questions of EUNEC's members, which will be discussed the next two days**
- by Mrs. Simone Barthel**
 member of the Executive Committee - Eunec
- 17.30** **Close of the works**

EUROPEAN STEPS TOWARDS TRANSPARENCY OF QUALIFICATIONS

8.30 **Arrival and control of identity**

9.00 **Introduction and chair**

Mrs. Simone Barthel

member of the Executive Committee - Eunec

9.15 **ROUND TABLE**
Developing a common reference framework for VET

Mr. Tom Leney (QCA - UK)

Mrs. Mette Beyer Paulsen (Cedefop)

Mr. Gregor Saladin (European Metal Union)

10.15 **ROUND TABLE**
Validation of formal and informal competences

Mrs. Pat Davies (Transfine – Eucen)

Mrs. Dangoumau (Validation des Acquis de l'expérience - Fr)

Mr. Alain Kock (Responsable du Consortium des compétences Wallonie-Bruxelles)

11.00 **Individual production**

written reactions, questions, proposals of statements, etc.

11.15 **Break**

11.45 **On which conditions a common reference framework for VET and the validation of formal and informal competences could improve citizenship and social cohesion? Debate with the social partners:**

Mr. P. Gudynas (Educational development centre - Lithuania)

Mrs. H. Diedrich-Fuhs (UNICE)

Mr. C. Serroyen (Trade-Unions - B)

12.30 **Lunch at the European Parliament restaurant**

- 14.00** **Short summary of the reactions in the morning**
 by **Mr. M. Durando**
 General reporter. Director of development at the European University of
 Nancy – Metz, European consultant.
- 14.15** **ROUND TABLE**
Europass, the European tool of transparency of qualifications?

 Mr. C. Scatoli (European Commission EAC B 1 Unit 1 Development of vocational training policy)
 Mr. L. Florio (Committee of the Regions)

 Mr. Paul Simar (Le Forem - Belgium)
- 15.15** **The European Credit Transfer System for VET**
 by **Mr. Edwin Mernagh** (NCCA - IRL)
- 16.00** **Individual production**

 written reactions, questions, proposals of statements, etc.
- 16.15** **Break**
- 16.45** **On which conditions Europass and a European credit transfer system could improve citizenship and social cohesion? Debate with the social partners:**

 Mrs. K. Loogma (Estonia Education Forum - Est)

 Mrs. H. Diedrich-Fuhs (UNICE)

 Mr. C. Serroyen (Trade-Unions - B)
- 17.30** **Short summary of the reactions in the afternoon**

 by **Mr. M. Durando**
 General reporter
- 18.00** **End and free evening in Brussels**

**WEDNESDAY OCTOBER
27**

EUNEC'S VIEWS AND POLITICAL DEBATE

9.00 General report

by **Mr. Durando**

General reporter

9.45 Presentation of the proposals of statements, prepared by the EUNEC's members at the conference in Riga (June 2004)

10.15 Debate on the statements

11.15 Political views on the transparency of qualifications at the European level

Mr. Frank Vandebroucke, minister of education and work (B, Flemish community)

Mrs. Marie Arena, minister of education (B, French community)

Mr. M. Rutte, State Secretary of vocational education (The Netherlands, presidency)

Animator: Mr. J.J. Jespers

11.45 Conclusion

by the EUNEC-president

12.00 -14.00 Final reception and lunch