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I. New Policy Paper

In the plenary meeting on 26/27 February 2007 the Austrian Accreditation Council adopted a policy paper concerning "*The Development of Accreditation in Austria*". European developments and demands on quality assurance in the private as well as the public higher education sector show that the dynamics in this sector implicate new challenges for the field of accreditation in Austria. The policy paper shall give concrete recommendations to the ongoing discussion.

The full-text version is available as PDF on the website (only in German):

http://www.akkreditierungsrat.at/files/Positionspapier_Entwicklung_Akkreditierung_2007.pdf

II. New Quality Mission Statement

Ensuring the quality of its own work is both a crucial goal and challenge for an institution whose tasks include quality assurance. Therefore the Austrian Accreditation Council has developed a quality mission statement as basis for a comprehensive quality culture.

The quality mission statement is available on the website:

http://www.akkreditierungsrat.at/cont/de/arar_leit_bild.aspx#b

III. Code of Good Practice for Site-Visits

The Austrian Accreditation Council approved a „Code of Good Practice for Site-Visits“ for the quality assurance of its work. The code of good practice for site-visits is based on experience gathered to date on site-visits. This code of good practice is to ensure the quality of site-visits and guarantees comprehensive assessments.

The document is available as PDF on the Website:

http://www.akkreditierungsrat.at/files/downloads_2007/CGP_Begehungen.pdf

IV. Latest Decisions

In the plenary meeting on 26/27 February 2007 the Austrian Accreditation Council decided on the following applications of accreditation:

▪ **Paracelsus Medical Private University Salzburg**

The application of accreditation of a bachelor and a master programme in the field of „Pflegerwissenschaften“ has been approved.

▪ **Private Universität für Gesundheitswissenschaften, Medizinische Informatik und Technik**

The Council rejected the applications of accreditation of a university course in the field of „Medizin- und Pflegerecht“ as well as a university course in field of „Medien- und Öffentlichkeitsarbeit“.

▪ **Pannonia Private Universität**

The Council decided negatively on the application of accreditation as private university.

▪ **World Wide University**

The Council rejected the application of accreditation as private university because of formal insufficiency.

The decisions are not yet legally binding because they still need the approval of the Federal Ministry of Science and Research.

V. ECA London Report

In view of the conference of the Ministers of Education in London on 17/18 May 2007, European Consortium for Accreditation (ECA) has published a report with the topic „*Advancing mutual recognition of accreditation decisions*“. The members of ECA emphasise the necessity of mutual recognition of accreditation decisions. At the same time the report makes an update of the progress of the ECA-project, which aims to reach mutual recognition of accreditation decisions at agency-level by the end of 2007.

The document is available as PDF at the website:

http://www.akkreditierungsrat.at/files/downloads_2007/ECA_London_report.pdf