

TABLE OF CONTENT

- I. Latest Decisions
- II. Rector's Conference of Private Universities in Austria
- III. External Review of the Austrian Accreditation Council (AAC)

I. Latest Decisions

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

- **Conservatory Vienna Private University**
The application of accreditation of a bachelor and a master programme in the field of "Jazz-Gesamt" has been approved.
- **PEF Private University for Management**
The Austrian Accreditation Council decided positively about the application on re-accreditation.

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

II. Rector's Conference of Private Universities in Austria

Austrian private Universities joined to a Rector's Conference. The objectives of the Rector's Conference are to strengthen the position of private universities in the Austrian higher education sector and to bring forward important concerns and ideas of private universities.

More information is available on the following website:

<http://www.privatuniversitaeten.at>

III. External Review of the Austrian Accreditation Council (AAC)

The Austrian Accreditation Council (AAC) undergoes an external evaluation in 2007. To determine whether the AAC fulfils national requirements, the University Accreditation Act has designated as instruments of external quality assurance both the annual report of the AAC to Parliament as well as the supervisory responsibility of the BMBWK. The AAC's obligation to undertake an external review also results from the European context, in particular from:

- The resolution of education ministers (Bergen Communiqué) to adopt the *European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area* (ESG) as well as an obligatory cyclical peer-review process for quality assurance agencies to be undertaken at the national level;
- The planned establishment of a European Register for quality assurance agencies;
- The condition that all ENQA members, in order to retain their membership, undertake an external review with respect to ESG by 2010 at the latest;
- The agreement that members of the ECA project submit for external review their fulfilment of the *Code of Good Practice* by 2007.

During the process, the following areas of the AAC's work ought to be examined:

- In what way and to what extent does the AAC fulfil the tasks set it by the University Accreditation Act using the process that the AAC developed, implemented and applied for the purpose of fulfilling these tasks?
- In what way and to what extent does the AAC meet the membership criteria for ESG/ENQA (*European Standards and Guidelines for External Quality Assurance Agencies*)?
- In what way and to what extent does the AAC fulfil the ECA *Code of Good Practice*?

The site-visit with an external expert team will be take place in June 2007.

Further documents are available as PDF on the Website:

- http://www.akkreditierungsrat.at/files/download_s_engl_2007/EXTEVA_Terms_of_reference_english.pdf
- http://www.akkreditierungsrat.at/files/download_s_2007/review_leaflet.pdf