

## Mostar Statement of the MERIC Network

Considering:

- The creation of the Mediterranean Network of National Information Centre on the Recognition of Qualifications (MERIC) in December 2006 as part of the implementation of the 7<sup>th</sup> Session of the Intergovernmental Committee of the Mediterranean the International Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education in the Arab and European States bordering on the Mediterranean.
- The Charter for the MERIC Network adopted at its First Meeting in Rabat in December 2006,
- The Cairo Declaration of 2007<sup>1</sup>, and
- The World Conference on Higher Education Communiqué of 2009.

Following the 2<sup>nd</sup> Session of the MERIC Network held in Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina on 11 to 12 Feb 2010, and with the objective of creating a common Mediterranean Higher Education Area (MHEA), we invite Ministers of all Mediterranean participating countries that have not already done so to ratify this Convention.

We also invite all Ministers to support the following concrete actions of the MERIC network to strengthen its capacity:

1. Appointment of a person or office that can provide official information on their higher education system (in accordance with Article 7.8 of the UNESCO Mediterranean Recognition Convention).
2. Study Visits and/or call for expertise visits to enhance capacity of national information centres on the north and south of the Mediterranean. These visits would enhance information exchange on working practices and establish professional links between peers in the MERIC Network
3. Training Workshops on key topics such as qualifications frameworks, quality assurance, criteria and procedures for the assessment of qualifications in dialogue with the Bologna Process. This activity should be done in cooperation with European and Arab quality assurance networks and the Euro Mediterranean University EMUNI
4. Terminology : development of a glossary of key terms and concepts for the recognition of qualifications and quality assurance in the 3 languages of the MERIC (English, French and Arabic).
5. Capacity Building for the development of structured information on higher education systems for diffusion to other members of MERIC and other regions based on an internationally agreed upon format

The Council of Europe and the European Commission will work with UNESCO and the members of MERIC to achieve these objectives.

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<sup>1</sup> Towards a Euro-Mediterranean higher Education & Research Area : First Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Higher Education and Scientific Research (Cairo Declaration – 18 June 2007)  
[http://www.epuf.org/media/documents/Cairo\\_Declaration.pdf](http://www.epuf.org/media/documents/Cairo_Declaration.pdf)