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Fostering mutual understanding
and co-operation of the EU with Belarus,
Moldova, Russia and Ukraine 2008 - 2012

**ROUND TABLE ON THE EU-BELARUS, MOLDOVA, RUSSIA, UKRAINE
COOPERATION IN EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SCIENCE , Chisinau, Moldova
19-20 February 2010**

CONCLUDING STATEMENT

Having considered the new European Community political and organisational decisions for Post-2010 development of the Lisbon process; planned strengthening support from the Education sector in form of upgraded ‘Education and Training 2020’ programme, and the priorities of the European Higher Education Reform Agenda;

On the basis of the analyses of the current development of EU-Partner countries cooperation in the frame of the European Neighbourhood and Eastern Partnership Policy the participants of the Round Table had discussed, considered and approved the following conclusions:

1. The co-operation between the EU countries and Belarus, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine in the fields of education, culture and science is of paramount importance for the factual participation of these countries in European integration processes regardless the fact that those countries will be for indefinite time outside the formal structure of the Union. Hence this cooperation could be realised in parallel with the discourse on future institutional participation and membership of those countries in the EU. This cooperation includes young people from PC and EU countries who are in the first place the bearers of the future Common European Space.
2. There is a imperative need to elaborate without delay the new legal basis and other necessary instruments for the development of EU – Belarus, Moldova, Russia and Ukraine relations in the frame of ENP and EP, and to insert into those instruments more incentives for the progressive integration of the education, science and culture within the Common European Space.
3. The higher education institutions in Belarus, Moldova, Russia and Ukraine have to make efforts to implement – in line with the principle of respecting diversity – the Bologna and other relevant standards and guidelines without waiting the immediate



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breakthrough in their home countries with internal reforms. The education possibilities should be opened to all target groups, giving them opportunities for enrolment.

In respect of these conclusions, all participants have agreed to put forward the following proposal and recommendations:

- a. necessity of respecting Lisbon convention on the recognition of diplomas and qualifications, further strengthening of the implementation of Bologna principles, following closely the establishment of European overarching Qualification Framework and Bologna Higher Education Framework aimed at the creation of the European High Education Area
- b. continuous improvement of cooperation on the basis of programs in education science and culture (Tempus, Erasmus-Mundus, Framework 7 programme, etc.), and
- c. sustainable follow-up activities of the BRIDGE project in the field of higher education level.

With accordance to the “General Charter of Universities” (Bologna, 1988), Glasgow (2005) Declaration „Strong Universities for a Strong Europe”; Lisbon (2007) Declaration, „Europe’s Universities beyond 2010: Diversity with a common purpose”, European Universities' Charter (2008) on Lifelong Learning and the most recent Prague Declaration (March, 2009), „European Universities – Looking Forward With Confidence” considering the Declaration and the recommendations of the latest (Lueven, April 2009) Bologna Ministers of Education Conference, all they calling for improvement of the overall management of the universities, development of adequate study programmes meeting the needs of the dynamic labour market, and respecting the fundamental right of the young people to receive education and qualification enabling their successful realisation in the life, all participant agreed that:

- Further effort is needed to put the universities in the center of the Golden triangle, »Learning, Research and Innovation« in order to accomplish their mission in serving the

society and acting as a driving force for overall social – economic development of the countries

- To focusing special attention to the well-grounded projects aimed at the younger generation of the targeted countries to integrate them into the same discourse, context and agenda with the rest of the young people from the EU countries;
- To strengthening mobility of ideas and people inside common European space by supporting EU-citizens (scientists, students, artists, etc.) in their visits for taking active part in various events in Belarus, Moldova, Russia, and Ukraine for promoting European values and enriching EU experience in building one common Europe.
- To secure more effort on the implementation of the system of long-life learning through closer cooperation between European and East European country universities at the level of Department and Chair within the joint research and educational projects;
- To establish closer and better structured relations between the of Universities and other public, industry and nongovernmental partners through studying the needs of the sector, planning and realizing the demanded research, implementing the research results, enriching the didactic process, developing consulting activities;

Within this framework, the participants reconfirmed their readiness to support and to contribute to the preparation of an application for a TEMPUS JP regional project »European Neighbourhood Policy Law and good Governance – EUNEGO « as a sustainable, follow-up activities of the BRIDGE project in the field of higher education level. It was agreed to design this project as a powerful instrument for strengthening the cooperation between the universities for East European and Caucasus countries in their effort to provide contribution to the improvement of the relations of their country with European Union

The participants requested Prof.Dr. Silvo Devetak as a BRIDGE Coordinator to distribute this Declaration among the relevant bodies of the EU and of the member states as well.

Chisinau, 20 February 2010