

Prof. Jennifer Bolton
President
European Council on Chiropractic Education (ECCE)
1 Spinnaker View
Bedhampton
Havant PO9 3JD
Hampshire
U.K.

Gloucester, 25 January 2008

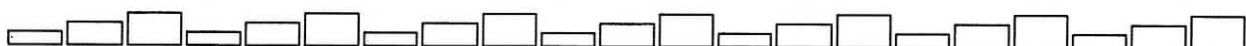
ENQA Membership of ECCE

Dear Professor Bolton,

I am pleased to be able to inform you that at its meeting on 20 December 2007 the Board of ENQA agreed that the European Council on Chiropractic Education (ECCE) should be granted Candidate Membership of ENQA. The Board wishes to express ENQA's warm welcome to your Agency and hopes that you will find the membership useful and valuable.

There are two major differences between Candidate and Full membership. First, Candidate members cannot cast votes in the ENQA General Assembly. They are, however, invited to attend the Assembly with observer status. Secondly, Board membership is limited to representatives of agencies in Full membership of ENQA. Other than these limitations, the benefits as well as requirements of ENQA membership are identical.

ECCE's application for membership of ENQA was received and considered by the ENQA Board in the light of a report from its working group on membership issues. The Board was not able to grant ECCE Full membership at this stage in your Agency's development, but agreed that Candidate Membership would be appropriate. Please find in Annex 1 the questions that the Board suggests you to address in order to meet the criteria for Full membership within the next two years, to be verified through an external review at the end of this two-year period.



If ECCE wishes to appeal against the decision of the ENQA Board not to grant Full membership, the procedures for doing so are explained in more detail in section 4.2.5 of the Regulations of ENQA, attached here as an annex.

ECCE should contact the ENQA Secretariat no later than December 2008 to provide a plan as regards the external review of the Agency, to be conducted in accordance with the published Guidelines for National Reviews, which will demonstrate that it is meeting the ENQA membership requirements in their entirety.

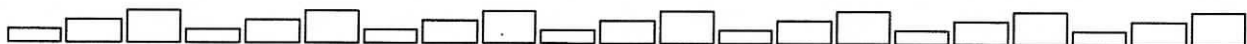
I would again like to thank you for your decision to apply for ENQA membership and I look forward to our active future cooperation.

Yours sincerely,



Peter Williams
ENQA President

Annex 1: Questions to be addressed in order to meet the criteria for Full membership
Annex 2: Regulations of ENQA (8 October 2006)



ANNEX 1 - Questions to be addressed in order to meet the criteria for Full membership

The Board suggests that in order to meet the criteria for Full membership within the next two years, to be verified through an external review at the end of this two-year period, ECCE should address the following questions:

- Students are not involved in the evaluation process;
- Evaluation reports are not published in their entirety;
- ECCE does not take into account the presence and effectiveness of the *Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG)*;
- The no-conflict-of-interest mechanism of ECCE is not satisfactory as: (i) there is no written declaration to be signed, (ii) an expert affected by a conflict of interest may anyway undertake the evaluation and (iii) a Council Member who has declared a conflict of interest **may** be¹ excluded from voting by simple majority vote of at least a quarter of the Council members present at the meeting;
- The composition and the appointment criteria and procedures of the expert panel members should be clearly defined and reconsidered to guarantee full independence;
- The composition of the appeal panel should be clarified. In addition, according to ECCE rules, it seems that an appeal is not possible on the arguments of the decision itself, only on factual faults;
- The resources of ECCE could be improved, as there now seems to be only one permanent staff member;
- There is no internal (cyclical) quality assurance system.

¹ This formulation suggests that s/he may, or may not, be excluded from voting in the case of a conflict of interest. If the latter was the case, the voting process could be questionable.

