

**European Association  
of Establishments for Veterinary Education**

**Association Européenne  
des Etablissements d'Enseignement  
Vétérinaire**



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**Dr. Pádraigh Walsh  
President and the  
Board of the  
European Association for Quality Assurance In Higher Education**

Vienna, 23rd January, 2014

Dear President Dr. Walsh,

I acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 28<sup>th</sup> November 2013 informing us on the decision of the Board of ENQA of 28<sup>th</sup> October that - on the basis of the Review Panel's report- EAEVE will not be granted membership of ENQA for the time being. This decision came as a major disappointment to the members of the Executive Committee of EAEVE (ExCom), since we were convinced that my letter written to the Board on the 23<sup>rd</sup> October has contributed to straighten out certain misunderstandings of the Review Panel, which might have affected its conclusions in the first place. EAEVE is committed to continue its evaluation activity in the field of veterinary medicine and, thus, we think that being involved in the network of QA agencies as ENQA member not only as an ENQA affiliate as we are now, would be highly beneficial to our work. For this reason in the name of EAEVE I would like to file the present letter of

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Considering that

1. according to ESG 2.1, the effectiveness of internal quality assurance processes has to be taken into account, which is clearly met by our procedures. The general review of higher education institutions (HEIs), missed by the Panel is not in the standard. The Panel criticised that QA experts are only from veterinary HEIs but again, this has nothing to do with this standard, we deem EAEVE not partially but *fully compliant* with the standard,
2. according to ESG 2.2, the quality assurance processes should be determined by involving also stakeholders and published in advance. The Panel missed the involvement of stakeholders and HEIs. This item was unfortunately not discussed at length during the visit. Whenever a new item or a change in the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) is proposed, a thorough regional discussion involving deans and member schools occurs, so that every region has a chance to comment before voting at the GA. SOP changes are also thoroughly discussed with the main stakeholders, the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe and the European Board of Veterinary Specialisation. For this reason, the European Coordinating Committee of Veterinary Training (ECCVT) – consisting of representatives of these associations - was brought into existence. All these documents are available on our homepage. As a result, we deem EAEVE not partially but *fully compliant* with the standard,
3. ESG 2.6 says that follow-up procedures are needed in order to follow the implementation of the recommendations, and these follow-up procedures are existing in our case. Their presence is described by the panel, too; however, they found the period of revisit to be

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- too long. The length is actually not defined by the standard, so our system meets the requirement. Moreover, please do bear in mind the specific nature of our organisation; we are not part of a national system where external QA can be compulsory. Thus we deem EAEVE not partially but *fully compliant* with the standard,
4. ESG 2.7 requires the periodicity of reviews and EAEVE meets this requirement, the schools have to be evaluated regularly, the length of the cycle and the procedures are written in the SOP. The ideal length of the cycle is not defined in the standard. So EAEVE is not substantially but *fully compliant* with the standard,
  5. according to ESG 2.8 quality assurance agencies are expected to produce summary reports and analyse general findings. Our results are continuously evaluated; the conclusions are discussed at the meetings of the ExCom and the GA and they are published on the homepage as parts of documents of the GAs. So EAEVE is at least *substantially compliant* with the standards,
  6. as far as resources are concerned (ESG 3.4) the Standard requires adequate and proportional resources, both human and financial. EAEVE has these resources and it is acknowledged by the Panel, however, they state that a small circle is serving in multiple functions. The panel might have arrived at this conclusion, since people having different kinds of experience were invited to the visit only for financial reasons and due to the fact that at such short notice many people were not available. Actually there is limited overlapping, as there is only one person, the president, who has two functions, he is member of both the European Committee on Veterinary Education and the ExCom. ExCom members can be members of visiting teams. Nobody else has double functions. At present we have 183 experts, which is sufficient. So EAEVE is not substantially but *fully compliant*,
  7. according to ESG 3.5, agencies should have a publicly available mission statement. EAEVE meets this requirement, the mission statement is available on our homepage. The suggestions of the Panel concerning the mission statement are appreciated, however, to our mind, they do not justify "partial compliance", EAEVE is at least *substantially compliant*,
  8. ESG 3.6 says that agencies should be independent. The Panel acknowledges that EAEVE fulfils the formal requirements of being independent and autonomous but finds the involvement of stakeholders low. In our opinion, the latter statement is in no connection with the standard, and stakeholders are actively involved (see point 2), so EAEVE is not partially but *fully compliant*,

the European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education files an  
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and asks to both consider the above arguments and forward our appeal to the Appeals and Complaints Committee of ENQA.

We are looking forward to your positive decision.

Yours sincerely,



Prof. László Fodor  
President