

Father Franco Imoda
President
Agency for the Evaluation and Promotion of Quality in Ecclesiastical Faculties (AVEPRO)

Dublin, 5 March 2014

Subject: Full membership of AVEPRO in ENQA

Dear Father Imoda,

I am pleased to inform you that, at its meeting of 19 February 2014, the Board of ENQA agreed to grant AVEPRO Full membership of ENQA for five years from that date.

On the basis of its scrutiny of the final review report, the Board agreed that AVEPRO met the necessary requirements for being granted ENQA Membership.

Though the ENQA Board concluded that AVEPRO is in substantial compliance with the European Standards and Guidelines, they concurred with the panel that the lack of resources should be addressed urgently (see Annex to this letter). AVEPRO is requested to submit a follow-up report on this area of development no later than February 2015. The Board would also like to receive a follow-up report on the other recommendations in the panel report within two years of its decision, i.e. by February 2016.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me or the ENQA Secretariat.

Please accept my congratulations to AVEPRO for the positive review outcome and I look forward to a fruitful future cooperation.

Yours sincerely,



Padraig Walsh
President of ENQA

Annex: Areas for development

In the light of the panel's concerns described below, the Board recommends AVEPRO to increase its human and financial resources in order for the review processes and procedures to meet future needs.

ESG 2.7 – Periodic reviews:

- The Board noted the panel's concerns about the Agency's ability to complete its planned evaluation cycle (pages 25-26). In its analysis, the panel says, "[...] *it would be challenging to cover 181 institutions located in 18 countries with 15 different languages [...] the resources available to AVEPRO, both human and finance, are short of what is required to implement the five yearly cycle [...]*".

ESG 3.4 / ENQA criterion 3 – Resources

- The Board noted again here the panel's concerns regarding the resources of the Agency and its ability to undertake all planned activities (page 34): "*We conclude that the development of the review processes and procedures to meet the needs of the medium and long-term future will require additional financial resources and significantly increased staffing resources. We recommend that this matter receives the urgent concern of the appropriate offices in the Holy See*".

ESG 3.8 / ENQA criterion 7 - Accountability procedures

- The Board noted the following analysis (page 39) that, "*The Panel is aware of the importance assigned to this review of AVEPRO, as it coincides with the first cycle of the Agency's functioning. In Article 15 of the Statutes, it is provided that they are effective for the coming five years ("is approved ad quinquennium"). It might be inferred from the latter provision that subsequent changes, not least in relation to the present review, might be expected. The Agency is encouraged to engage in internal and external discussions with key stakeholders and take appropriate improvement oriented measures*".