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Dublin, 7 December 2016

**Subject: Membership of ASIIN in ENQA**

Dear Iring,

I am writing to inform you of the decision taken by the ENQA Board on 30 November 2016 regarding the membership of ASIIN in ENQA.

In light of the documentary and oral evidence considered by the Review Panel, the Board was satisfied that, in the performance of its functions, ASIIN is in a number of areas in substantial compliance with the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG). However, after thorough consideration and discussion on the final review report, the Board came to the conclusion that the overall level of compliance with the ESG is not sufficient to renew the Agency's membership at this stage. The Board therefore decided to designate ASIIN as "Member under review" for a period of two years from the 30<sup>th</sup> of November 2016. The Agency will need to undergo a new partial review process at the end of this period, or sooner, if it wishes. That review will focus in particular on the weaknesses listed below and described in detail in the Panel's report.

The Board was especially concerned about the cases where only partial compliance with the ESG is reached. The Board advises your agency to take into consideration the Panel's recommendations but to give specific attention to the following standards that were considered only as being partially compliant with the ESG:

*ESG 3.4 Thematic analysis*

The Board's concern is that ASIIN does not regularly publish reports that describe and analyse the general findings of their own external quality assurance activities that would

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feed back to the stakeholders and society, and that would also strengthen the internal quality assurance of the agency.

*ESG 2.4 Peer-review experts*

The Board is especially concerned that student representatives are not involved in all quality assurance procedures.

*ESG 2.7 Complaints and appeals*

The Board considers that the appeals procedure needs further refining as recommended by the Panel.

The Board is confident that the shortcomings identified in the review can be properly addressed and substantially resolved in the next two years. The Board recommends that this be undertaken on the basis of a desk exercise only without the need for a further panel visit.

According to ENQA's Rules of Procedure, following a successful partial review in 2018, ASIIN's membership in ENQA would extend to a five-year term starting from the date of the Board's initial decision (30 November 2016). I would like to point out that members under review maintain their membership rights and duties during the period of membership under review (maximum of two years). You may find the full listing of benefits here:

<http://www.enqa.eu/index.php/enqa-agencies/enqa-membership-benefits-and-services/>

If ASIIN is dissatisfied with the decision of the ENQA Board, it may file an appeal according to the procedures outlined in article 24 of ENQA's Rules of Procedure.

For any questions, do not hesitate to be in touch with the ENQA Secretariat.

Yours sincerely,



Padraig Walsh  
President of ENQA