

Prof. Dr. Franci Čuš
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Gloucester, 19 September 2007

ENQA membership application of QACS

Dear Prof. Dr. Čuš,

I am writing to inform you of the outcome of the ENQA Board discussion of 7 September 2007 regarding the application for membership of ENQA by QACS, received by the ENQA Secretariat in May 2007.

QACS'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.

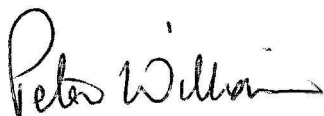
I regret to inform you that the Board was not able to grant QACS membership of ENQA. The reasons for this decision are given in Annex 1. The Board would, however, invite QACS to resubmit its application, addressing the main questions listed in Annex 1.

If QACS is dissatisfied with the decision of the ENQA Board not to grant it membership, it may file an appeal according to the procedures outlined in section 4.2.5 of the Regulations of ENQA (Cf. Annex 2).

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

With good wishes

Yours sincerely,



Peter Williams, ENQA President



ANNEX 1: Reasons for the Board's decision
ANNEX 2: Regulations of ENQA (8 October 2006)



ANNEX 1 – Reasons for the Board decision

The Board was not able to give consideration to the application by QACS because it was lacking sufficient, reliable and comprehensible information. The Board of ENQA would invite QACS to submit a more thorough application, addressing the main questions listed below.

The main questions to be addressed in the application are:

- **the activities before 2006**

QACS has been conducting external evaluations for only one year (since 2006). What were its main activities between 1996 and 2005? Did QACS undertake external evaluation or accreditation tasks?

- **the human and financial resources**

The human and financial resources remain very unclear and need further specification. It was not clear from the documentation how, by whom, for how long a term and by what mechanism the QACS's members are appointed and whether they are remunerated full or part time employees.

- **the organisational structure and relation to other bodies responsible for higher education**

The relationship and division of tasks between QACS, the University of Maribor, the Council for Higher Education, the Ministry of higher education and the Council of Science and technology were not clear.

- **independence**

The independence of QACS needs much more clarification in terms of its autonomous responsibility for its operations; operational independence from higher education institutions and governments (e.g. the administrative services are performed by the Ministry); the nomination and appointment of external experts and the determination of the outcomes of its quality assurance processes.

- **accountability procedures**

QACS does not have a quality policy or a quality management plan. The feedback collection mechanisms do not seem adequate and sufficient. QACS does not seem to have a sufficient non-conflict-of-interest mechanism. QACS has not yet undergone any external review.

- **publication of reports**

None of the evaluation reports are publicly available in the English part of the website. The relation between the individual evaluation reports and the agency's annual report on the quality of higher education was not clear.

