



FLAMENCO – EURASHE

Legal Education in the Russian Federation

12 March 2012 – Brussels, Belgium

Stefan Delplace's Introduction and

Welcome Speech



Dear Rectors and Deans of Universities from the Russian Federation and from Ukraine

Dear colleagues of Law Faculties from Flemish Universities

Dear colleagues from FLAMENCO

Members of EURASHE

It is my pleasure to welcome you on behalf of FLAMENCO and EURASHE, to this FLAMENCO Forum on the premises of the Councils of the Flemish Universities and University Colleges.

FLAMENCO, the Flemish Agency for Mobility and Cooperation in Higher Education, for our Russian and Ukraine guests, is the Agency for Internationalisation of the Flemish Institutions of higher education.

I have to excuse the Chairman of the Board of FLAMENCO, who unfortunately could not be present, but Mrs Simone Goetschalckx, the coordinator of FLAMENCO and Mrs Bernadette Allaert, her assistant are today the hosts of this event.

The primary role of FLAMENCO, I have been told, is to stimulate the internationalisation of the Flemish institutions and promote the mobility of students, and no do doubt during the discussion planned for the end of this morning, there will be an opportunity to discuss with the colleagues from FLAMENCO the initiatives they are developing to achieve these aims.

EURASHE, my organisation, is the acronym of the European Association of Institutions in Higher Education, the official voice of those Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in Europe that offer professionally oriented programmes, and which are engaged in applied and profession-related research within the Bachelor and Masters Bologna cycles.

You will find in your portfolio a small leaflet on my association, which officially represents the professionally oriented programmes and institutions in the Bologna Process, as a consultative member of the Bologna Follow-up Group.

Today's initiative for this meeting came from one of our Russian guests, the Regional Open Social Institute from Kursk (ROSI).

The Rector of ROSI, an Open University in the oblast of Kursk, is Professor Vladimir Petrov, who has for long played an active role for internationalisation in his region, after establishing a cooperation with West-European professors and institutions in the nineties, and who is also a Vice President of the Association of Non-State universities in the Russian Federation.

It is not the first time Rector Petrov is organising an event with partners from Western Europe, and also the theme of Law education is familiar to him, as already in the late nineteen nineties, together with my own institution, Ghent University College, he was involved in a Tempus project, together with John Napier University from Edinburgh, on curriculum development in Law Studies at his university ROSI.



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In April 2010 we held here in Brussels an international research and practice seminar on the topic "Universities of Europe: their teaching, Quality Assurance, Problems of Accreditation and Organisation of International Cooperation". One month before, on 10 March a delegation of our Russian members led by Rector Petrov, had been invited, as guests of EURASHE, to participate in the anniversary celebration of 10 years Bologna in the House of Parliament Houses in Budapest.

And finally last year EURASHE co-organised with its Russian partner universities a Bologna related seminar in Moscow, with speakers from the Secretariat of the Bologna Follow-up Group and experts in the priority areas of the reform process. Its title was the immediate impact of the Bologna Reform on Russian Higher Education Institutions & Universities, and its focus was on the 'implementation' of the Bologna action lines in the institutions, the public and private universities. The program included a state of affairs from the point of view of those who are in charge of monitoring the Process (governments and stakeholder organisations); the country situation from the point of view of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation, and the point of view from the part of stakeholders in the process in Russia.

For the meeting today, we are all very much indebted to Mrs Simone Goetschalckx, the coordinator of FLAMENCO, who managed in a very short time to get all of us here together for what will hopefully be an interesting exchange of views and an examination of possibilities for further cooperation between Law Schools of the three countries.

Not all Law Schools in Flanders managed to send a representative, but still the result is impressive, and as it has already been announced to our Russian and Ukraine guests, in the late afternoon there will be a visit to the Law Faculty of the Catholic University of Louvain, the eldest established University in Belgium.

Before that, following the morning session and after our sandwich lunch on these premises I will give our guests a brief update on new developments in the Bologna Process, with the launching of the European Higher Education Area in 2010, and the role played by my organization EURASHE, in this.

But let us now come back to the program of this event, prepared by FLAMENCO, on the subject of Law education.

Law is a major foundation of civil society, and frequently during the discussions in the Bologna Follow-up Group, its importance is stressed for safeguarding the values that make the main features of European higher education.

The program starts with an introduction on the law education in the respective countries, followed by a presentation of an Erasmus Lifelong Learning Project, by Professor Van der Borgh from the Free University of Brussels, and finally an open Discussion on, according to the programme, "vision and policy, curriculum, methodology, research in Law Education."

I wish you all an interesting Forum and fruitful discussions.

Thank you