MAIN CONCLUSIONS AND ACTION POINTS
OF THE TWENTY-SECOND MEETING OF THE EQF ADVISORY GROUP
BRUSSELS, 16-17 DECEMBER 2013

The EQF referencing process

The AG discussed the referencing reports of the French Speaking Community of Belgium and Iceland and the first draft of the referencing report of Greece.

Action points:

- Cedefop and Council of Europe to prepare a summary of comments/questions made by the EQF Advisory Group on the national referencing reports of the French Speaking Community of Belgium and Iceland, as well as the first draft of the referencing report of Greece as presented in the meeting of the EQF Advisory Group on 16-17 December 2013 (the record and summary of the comments of the AG will be enclosed to the detailed minutes of AG22)
- The French Speaking Community of Belgium and Iceland to send its referencing report to the Commission when it is ready to be published on the EQF portal.
- Greece to send its revised referencing report to the Commission, when it is ready to be presented to the EQF AG.

Two countries (KY, RO) confirmed to present their national referencing report to the EQF Advisory Group in the meeting of the EQF AG on 26-27 February 2014.

Action points:

- Country representatives of KY, RO to send the Commission their report on referencing national qualifications levels to the EQF (and its English translation) by 26 January 2014.
- AG members to indicate their interest in providing detailed written comments on the referencing report of KY, RO by 15 January 2014.
- Country representatives to inform the Commission about changes in their referencing roadmaps and in particular the date of the presentation of their referencing report to the EQF AG by 14 February 2014.
- Country representatives to update information on national approaches to implement the second miles of the EQF by 14 February 2014.
Providing overall coherence of EQF implementation

As agreed in the EQF AG meeting in September 2013, the Commission invited the representative of the European Welding Association to present how the European standards for welding qualifications are defined and quality assured, and how these qualifications are awarded in the various countries in Europe and referenced to the EQF. The AG agreed that more in-depth analysis is needed on why welding qualifications – which are based in European standards – are related to different levels of the EQF. As regards the overall issue of relating international qualifications to the EQF, several members of the EQF AG suggested that an EQF AG subgroup should be set up to work on this theme. It was agreed that the working group should be chaired by AG members; the Commission will not chair it.

Action points:
- EQF AG members – country representatives and European stakeholders – that wish to participate in an EQF AG working group should indicate their interest; identify issues that such a working group should address by 31 January 2014.

The Commission presented its proposal for exploring the role of the EQF in cooperation with third countries (Cf. note AG22-3). As the note was sent out close to the meeting date and delegations could not prepare formal positions, no conclusions could be made during the meeting. It was agreed that EQF AG members will provide written comments to the note 22-3.

Action points:
- EQF AG members to provide written responses by 31 January 2014 to the following questions:
  - What should be mandate of the EQF AG in developing a systematic approach to using the EQF in the context of cooperation with third countries?
  - The Commission received formal requests from Australia, Hong Kong and New Zealand to establish cooperation between the EQF and their national qualifications frameworks in 2013. What immediate answer should the Commission give to these countries, taking into account that the development of a strategic approach for the external dimension of the EQF may take time?
  - What concrete comments do EQF AG members have on the proposal in note AG22-3?
- Commission to prepare a summary note of the comments by mid-February.
- EQF AG to discuss follow-up in its meeting on 26-27 February 2014

The EQF AG was informed about the Euro-Mediterranean Regional Qualifications Project and the establishment of its policy steering group, the Euro-Med Strategic Committee, which are supported by ETF. Morocco, Jordan, Egypt and Tunisia represent the Partner Countries. FR, ES, IT as well as EC and Cedefop are European representatives in the project and the Strategic committee. ETF chairs the committee. Morocco requested to participate in the meetings of the EQF AG as an observer.

Action points:
- EQF AG members to provide written feedback by 31 January 2014:
  - Does the EQF AG agree that FR, ES, IT and the EC participate in the
Strategic Committee?

- Does the EQF AG agree that observers, for example Morocco, could participate in the meetings of the EQF AG?

The Commission presented the new design of the joint Ploteus and EQF portal interface. New text and explanations of terminology will soon be developed. Testing of interconnection of national databases with both the EQF and the Ploteus functions will be carried out during 2014. The website is planned to be made publicly available in Q1 2014.

Action points:
- EQF AG members to provide written comments on the design of the test website by 20 January 2014.

The EQF AG was informed about latest relevant developments in the Bologna Process and the Copenhagen Processes.

The Commission presented the state of play of ESCO, including the outcomes of the "ESCO goes live" conference on 23-24 October and the ESCO Board meeting on 25 November. The Commission agreed that the EQF AG will systematically be consulted on ESCO developments, in particular related to the qualifications pillar. Cedefop presented the proposal for the use of learning outcomes terminology in ESCO.

Action points:
- EQF AG members to provide written comments on the use of learning outcomes terminology in ESCO, as presented in note AG22-5.2 by 31 January 2014.

The Commission presented the main outcomes of the peer learning activity on increasing synergies between the implementation of the learning outcomes approach and quality assurance arrangements, which took place on 28-29 November 2013. Cedefop presented the main findings of its conference on learning outcomes, which took place on 20-21 November 2013.

Action points:
- Commission to send the PLA report to the EQF AG

Validation of non-formal and informal learning

The AG adopted the structure of the one-off national report that MS agreed to prepare in response to the Council recommendation on VNFIL by 2018.

Commission and Cedefop presented the state of play of the update of the European Inventory and the review of the European Guidelines on validation. Cedefop asked country representatives to comment on the draft country reports by 15 January 2014. Upon the request of the European Youth Forum (YFJ) and the European Students Forum, the EQF AG agreed that the YFJ and ESU could provide comments on the draft country reports (Portugal did not agree to share its draft report at this stage) as well. The Commission presented the proposal for national roadmaps for arrangements for validation of non-formal and informal learning, which was prepared upon the request of AG country representatives.

Action points:
- Country representatives to provide comments on the draft country reports prepared by external experts contracted by Cedefop in the context of the
update of the European Inventory by 15 January 2014. Comments should be send to Cedefop with the Commission in copy.

- Cedefop to send the draft country reports to YFJ and ESU as soon as possible
- Commission to send the proposal for European Guidelines to the AG
- EQF AG to provide written comments on the proposal for national roadmaps (note AG22-6) by 31 January 2014

The next meeting of the EQF Advisory Group will be on 26-27 February in Birmingham, following the UK conference "Making Learning Visible" on 25-26 February. The following meeting in 2014 is planned for 28-29 April in Brussels. The date of the June meeting will be fixed soon.