

**Rafael van Grieken**  
Director

Dr. Achim Hopbach  
President  
ENQA

Madrid, 7<sup>th</sup> February 2013

Dear Dr. Hopbach,

I am writing to you in response to your letter dated on 29<sup>th</sup> January reconfirming ANECA's Full membership to ENQA on the basis of the scrutiny made to the external review report.

First of all I would like to transmit to you my acknowledgement on behalf of ANECA of this positive outcome which implies more than one year and a half of effort made by the Agency ANECA to maintain the commitment of the agency towards the criteria established within the European Higher Education Area.

The review has been a collective effort of the staff, the executive board and the bodies that comprise the Agency as a whole including its stakeholders. This engagement, underlined by the panel in the report, shows very clearly that the review is not perceived either like a routine assessing exercise or as a mere legal requirement to maintain the necessary statu quo within ENQA.

The second review has been felt by the Agency as a real enhancement-led exercise and a means to appraise and follow-up the changes and developments on the quality assurance evaluation procedures experienced by the Spanish Higher Education system in the last five years.

To this goal, I can advance to you that after taking my position as Director of ANECA in late June, I took along with ANECA's Board of Directors immediate actions towards the correction of certain weaknesses detected in our self-evaluation and furthermore after the first feedback from the panel and the report and easily approachable, such as the definition of a consultation group to prepare a new strategic plan and a new unit to coordinate the internal quality assurance mechanisms in the agency.

Nevertheless, and after receiving the detailed letter from the Board, the self-evaluation committee of ANECA will prepare in close co-ordination with the Direction of the Agency the corresponding Action Plan to address the recommendations and areas of development defined by the Board and to write the progress report requested in due time and in any case before December 2013. It will be assumed by me as a personal commitment to contribute to maintain ANECA's trajectory and to strengthen its capacities for the future development of the Agency.

Finally, I would also like to emphasise the professional demeanor and the pleasant working atmosphere that the review panel maintained throughout all the visit, due mainly to the outstanding expertise shown by its chairperson, Peter Findlay and its secretary Stephanie Maurer.

The performance of the panel and the support of the ENQA Secretariat must be also acknowledged as a collective achievement of the ENQA reviews at the European level and as an example and benchmark for other organisations involved in the external review of quality assurance agencies at the international context.

I would like to conclude my letter sharing your kind congratulations message to ANECA for being reconfirmed as ENQA Full member and my personal commitment to maintain the strong involvement of the Spanish National Agency in its activities in the future as it has been in the last years.

Yours sincerely,



Cc.

*Maria Kelo, Director of ENQA Secretariat*