



European Association for
Quality Assurance in Higher Education

Ms. Alina Zhumagulova
Director
Independent Agency for Accreditation and Rating (IAAR)
Baurzhan Momysuly avenue 2, EP-4G Nur-Sultan
Kazakhstan

Gloucester, 9 December 2021

Subject: Reconfirmation of IAAR membership in ENQA

Dear Ms. Alina Zhumagulova,

I am pleased to inform you that, at its meeting on 7 December 2021, the ENQA Board agreed to reconfirm IAAR's membership in ENQA for five years from that date. The Board concluded that IAAR is in compliance with the *Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG 2015)* and thus fulfils the membership criteria according to article 6, paragraph 1 of ENQA's Rules of Procedure.

The Board would like to use this opportunity to provide an explanation regarding standard 3.3 Independence, where its judgement differs from that of the panel. The Board calls the agency to redistribute its decision-making powers to formally provide for the organisational independence. Following this, in the opinion of the Board, the standard can be considered only as substantially compliant with the ESG, and thus the panel's second suggestion under this standard as a recommendation to the agency.

The Board would like to receive a follow-up report within two years of its decision, i.e., by December 2023.

The Board also encourages IAAR to take advantage of the voluntary progress visit – an enhancement-led feature in the review process. The visit would take place in about two to three years' time from this decision. The ENQA Secretariat will be in touch with you in about a year's time to discuss this possibility. The cost of this visit has already been included as part of the review fee and are non-refundable except for the travel costs of the experts. More information about the progress visit can be found in the Guidelines for ENQA Agency Reviews.



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

Please accept my congratulations for the re-confirmation of IAAR's membership in ENQA. I look forward to our continued cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Douglas Blackstock', is positioned above the printed name.

Douglas Blackstock
President

Annex: Areas for development