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Ms. Lemka Izmailova  
Director  
National Accreditation Agency of the Russian Federation (NAA)  
33 Shabolovka Str.  
115162 Moscow, Russia

Dublin, 8 June 2017

**Subject: Membership of NAA in ENQA**

Dear Ms. Izmailova,

I am pleased to inform you that, at its meeting of 4 May 2017, the Board of ENQA agreed to reconfirm NAA's Membership of ENQA. As this was a partial review, the validity of the Membership is calculated from the decision by the Board concerning the previous review, i.e. from 6 March 2015. The Membership is thus valid until 6 March 2020.

The ENQA Board concluded that NAA is in substantial compliance with the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG 2005). The Board would like to receive a follow-up report on the recommendations in the panel report (as outlined in the annex attached) within two years of its decision, i.e. by May 2019. In addition, the Board would like to encourage NAA to have more focus on quality enhancement in all its operations.

Furthermore, as this partial review was carried out against the ESG 2005, the Board would like to remind you that, as the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG 2015) were adopted by the Ministerial Conference in May 2015, we expect that all ENQA Members have by now incorporated ESG 2015 into all relevant procedures. The next review will completely focus on the ESG 2015 and therefore major progress in certain aspects is expected by the time of the next review. Any reflections regarding progress concerning the ESG 2015 would be welcome already in the follow-up report.

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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 Membership of NAA.

Yours sincerely,



Padraig Walsh  
President of ENQA

Annex 1 – Areas for development

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## **Annex 1 - Areas for development**

### **ENQA CRITERION 1 / SUB-CRITERION ESG 2005 2.4: PROCESSES FIT FOR PURPOSE**

NAA is recommended to continue its effort to recruit and train international experts in order to allow for an international perspective on the quality of Russian higher education.

NAA is recommended to define a specific role for students as full members of expert panels, for instance with tasks regarding the general quality of the learning environment, students' involvement in internal quality assurance procedures at the institution, and students' satisfaction across the individual programmes. This is especially important with a view to the explicit requirement of the ESG 2015 that external quality assurance should be carried out by groups of external experts that include (a) student member(s).

### **ENQA CRITERION 1 / SUB-CRITERION ESG 2005 2.5: REPORTING**

NAA is recommended to develop the report template so that the experts' analyses and arguments behind the assessments as well as recommendations for enhancements are presented in the reports and published. This would greatly ameliorate the transparency, the possibility to check consistency as well as the value of the state accreditation process for the HEIs in terms of enhancement orientation.

### **ENQA CRITERION 5 / ESG 2005 3.6: INDEPENDENCE**

It is recommended that NAA staff should not be members of the Accreditation Board of NAA responsible for selecting and certifying experts and expert organisations. Although outside the scope of this review, it is also recommended that Rosobrnadzor does not include its own staff as members of its collegial body.

### **ENQA CRITERION 6 / ESG 2005 3.7: EXTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE CRITERIA AND PROCESSES USED BY THE AGENCIES**

It is recommended that NAA and Rosobrnadzor would make the complaints procedure more transparent, for instance with explicit and predefined criteria for assessing a complaint. It is also recommended that the possibility to complain against the conclusion of a panel is described on NAA's website.

NAA is recommended to create a basis for a follow-up in the form of genuine feedback to HEIs in the reports and subsequent contact with the institutions about their progress.