Subject: Membership of the Danish Accreditation Institution (AI) in ENQA

Dear Ms. Dørge,

I am pleased to inform you that, at its meeting of 15 September 2016, the Board of ENQA agreed to reconfirm the Danish Accreditation Institution membership of ENQA for five years from that date.

The ENQA Board concluded that the Danish Accreditation Institution is in substantial compliance with the European Standards and Guidelines and 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 September 2018.

In addition, the Board would like to encourage the Danish Accreditation Institution to attempt to implement ESG 2.1 (Consideration of internal quality assurance) more comprehensively even though some of the standards of ESG Part I are dealt with in other parts of the higher education system (e.g. by the ministry). The same advice applies to ESG 2.7 (Complaints and appeals): Where it is possible, the agency is encouraged to compensate for legal constraints by implementing additional procedures within the agency.

In addition, the Board recommends that you consider taking advantage of the new ENQA procedure, i.e. a progress visit. The visit would take place after the submission of the follow-up report, in about two 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 costs of this visit have 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.

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 the Danish Accreditation Institution.

Yours sincerely,

Padraig Walsh
President
Annex: Areas for development

As outlined by the review panel, the Danish Accreditation Institution is recommended to take appropriate action, so far as it is empowered to do so, on the following issues:

ESG 2.1: To advocate for integrating all aspects of part I of the ESG into the accreditation criteria when the envisaged reform of the accreditation system takes place.

ESG 2.2: To further reduce the workload and the amount of documentation gathered in the institutional accreditations, making clear what data is required and for what purposes, introduce follow-up procedures in all accreditations, play the lead role in the discussions about designing new procedures and intensify stakeholder involvement, in particular in the design of AI methodologies.

ESG 2.3: To introduce follow-up procedures in all accreditations.

ESG 2.6: To consider giving recommendations in all reports and adding a summary in reports.

ESG 2.7: To formalise and make transparent to all higher education institutions when and how formal complaints can be made.

ESG 3.1: To further elaborate on stakeholder involvement in order to fulfil the Danish Accreditation Institution’s vision to contribute to the enhancement and further development of the quality work at institutions.

ESG 3.4: To clarify the purpose of their analysis, especially in relation to the analysis of EVA and to communicate this to stakeholders, consider setting up formal feedback mechanisms on the relevance and usefulness of their analysis.

ESG 3.6: To supplement the memo on the quality assurance policy by adding descriptions of the various internal quality assurance procedures including responsibilities, timing etc.