

General Assembly of the National ECSA Presidents

Brussels, 29 November 2004 / 2 pm – 6.30 pm

Conclusions

The ECSA General Assembly, in which the Presidents of 38 of the 52 existing national ECSA associations took part, has formulated the following conclusions and proposes to the European Commission:

1. ECSA wishes to thank the European Commission for its support within the framework of its cooperation with ECSA. ECSA expresses the hope that the fruitful working relationship established between ECSA and the European Commission will be further strengthened in 2005, notably by upholding the financial instruments available for ECSA;
2. ECSA welcomes the integrated action programme in the field of lifelong learning, which foresees, among other things, the allocation of operating grants to European associations active in the fields of education and training.
3. the ECSA-World Conferences have a great mobilising capacity within the ECSA network and generate a considerable amount of interest within the academic community and civil society. ECSA therefore proposes that these conferences be organised on an annual basis;
4. networking within and between the national ECSA associations is essential for stimulating cooperation among European integration specialists and young researchers, and furthering their teaching, information and research activities. To this end, a number of communication tools should be developed further, such as the *Who's Who* on European integration, both as a publication and as an interactive electronic version on ECSANET;
5. ECSA hopes that derogations to the implementing rules for the financial regulation concerning activities with a European focus will be established, taking into account the principle of proportionality. In this respect, a more flexible application of the criteria establishing the financial and operational capacity of the beneficiaries could be considered, particularly with regard to non-profit organisations. Furthermore, ECSA would welcome a simplification of the administrative formalities of the projects financed under former budget line A-3022.