

Pavia Declaration

The Rectors, Vice-Chancellors, Presidents, Provosts and Principals (or their Deputies) of the Universities of

Aarhus, Barcelona, Bergen, Bologna, Bristol, Budapest, Cambridge, Coimbra, Dublin-Trinity, Edinburgh, Galway, Goettingen, Granada, Graz, Groningen, Heidelberg, Jena, Krakow, Leiden, Leuven, Louvain, Montpellier, Oxford, Padova, Pavia, Poitiers, Praha, Salamanca, Siena, Thessaloniki, Turku/Abo, Uppsala, Wuerzburg

at a meeting in Pavia on 4 June 1999 on the occasion of the Coimbra Group General Assembly

after discussing the issue of historical universities facing the challenges of the new millenium

in view of the Bologna meeting of the European Ministers of Education

note that

on the threshold of a new millenium the rapid and far-reaching evolution of society towards a knowledge-based society characterized by problems on a global size, a new demand for high-quality education and research, and the major impact of new technologies has also placed academic institutions, centres of intellectual and cultural lives, in a position where they must face up to a number of challenges.

In a world where human capital is becoming the major resource universities of all continents can and must be in the forefront of the shaping of the future society more than ever before.

In order to cope with the complex, global and increasingly different problems posed by society, universities must stimulate creativity, offer multidisciplinary education and develop basic research.

To offset increased education and research costs, a policy of networking should be stimulated and supported so that centres of excellence may share resources.

The mobility of both students and scholars is a helpful way through which to exploit the great richness of the entire university system.

The impact of new information and communication technologies, while transforming approaches to teaching and research, should not overshadow the very nature of universities as centres where students and scholars live together and develop knowledge and culture in the respect of diversity.

In conclusion, European historical universities, that have contributed so much to the creation of European culture over the centuries, are ready and willing to meet the challenges and new demands of new society, while, at the same time, remaining faithful to their permanent mission, namely to preserve European cultural heritage. They are also ready and willing as well to preserve and expand partnerships with universities in other regions of the world, and thereby contribute to the education of citizens conscient of their global responsibilities.