

## EURASHE UAS Leadership Forum

### Background

EURASHE role as a policy representation of professional higher education has been from its establishment strongly focused on a mutual dialogue with top leaders of relevant institutions and their national associations. The political mission of EURASHE would be hardly fulfilled without such link. The changes within the higher education landscape over the past decades have led to various changes of profiles, focus and also size of institutions, as well as tasks of their leaders. Yet, with all respect to a diversity of institutions attracted by the topic of professional higher education and related research agenda, it is universities of applied sciences (UAS) who play with no doubt a key role for EURASHE policies and activities.

### First experience

Motivated by further strengthening of the mutual dialogue with the top leaders of universities of applied sciences EURASHE launched a UAS Leadership Forum during its 27<sup>th</sup> annual conference in Le Havre, March 30 - 31. The forum served as a platform for mutual, informal sharing of views and experience regarding key strategic issues between presidents, rectors, vice-rectors and general directors of European universities of applied sciences.

The first speakers were:

- Mr. André Richier, EC DG Growth,
- Ms. Deborah Roseveare, a head of OECD's Skills beyond School Division,
- Michal Karpisek presented the emerging EURASHE priorities followed by contributions of Stéphane Lauwick, IUT du Havre, FR and Marc Vandewalle, UCLL, BE-FL, this in order to obtain the feedback from the UASs' top leaders

The forum was facilitated by Richard Thorn, emeritus President of IoT Sligo, IE.

The formal evaluation of the forum provided the highest score in comparison to other, well-accepted parts of the programme, the informal feedback was even more supportive.

### Next UAS Leadership Fora

It seems that organising UAS Leadership For twice a year seems to be optimum timing. Therefore the next UAS Leadership Forum should be organised in the autumn 2017.

### Proposed dates & location:

Brussels, October 11, 2017 afternoon (a day before GA), alt. October 13, 2017 morning (a day after the GA). The forum would run parallel to other EURASHE events (roundtable of teaching & learning, QA CoP)

### Themes considered:

- Modernisation of HE including its reflection in tools and programmes, Adam Tyson, head of unit, DG EAC EC
- Potential role of UAS in research and innovation agenda, DG Research (under discussions)
- Key issues for the EURASHE Policy Paper, EURASHE representative

### Scope and invitations:

Max 30 participants from among UAS rectors, vice-rectors, attendance on invitation only, geographical spread across Europe

The national associations will be asked to propose the names where feasible