

## PRESS RELEASE

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*European Association for International Education*

### **Andrejs Rauhvargers honoured with a Constance Meldrum Award**

Andrejs Rauhvargers received the EAIE's Constance Meldrum Award for Vision and Leadership during the Opening Plenary of the 18th Annual EAIE Conference on 14 September 2006 in Basel, Switzerland.

Professor Andrejs Rauhvargers is the Secretary General of the Latvian Rectors' Conference. He is also the representative of Latvia in the Bologna Follow-up Group (BFUG), the Chair of the BFUG Stocktaking Working Party and the President of the Committee of the Lisbon Recognition Convention. From 1997–1999 he was Vice-President of the Council of Europe and the UNESCO network ENIC (European Network of Information Centres on Academic Recognition and Mobility), and President of ENIC from 1999–2001. He was also long-time head of the Latvian Academic Information Centre (Latvian ENIC/NARIC).

Andrejs Rauhvargers is a leader in the field of recognition of foreign qualifications. After the education ministers in Europe signed the Bologna Declaration in 1999, he worked diligently to help ensure that the European Higher Education Area will be a reality by 2010. His contribution in writing the *EUA Survey on Master Degrees and Joint Degrees in Europe* (2002) is remarkable. He is one of the main authors of the *Recommendation on the Recognition of Joint Degrees and its Explanatory Memorandum*.

His knowledge is widely recognised in Europe and beyond. In addition to his day-to-day work for the European Higher Education Area, Andrejs Rauhvargers has organised a number of official Bologna events internationally and in Latvia. He has been invited by the Council of Europe, UNESCO and the European Commission to present his expert views to large audiences. An active member of the EAIE for more than ten years (since 1992), he has served as an ACE Board member, including two terms as ACE chair, and as a member of the EAIE Executive Board. Andrejs Rauhvargers has devoted a lot of personal time and energy to ACE, to the EAIE, and to the European Higher Education Area. He truly is dedicated towards internationalising higher education.

#### **Constance Meldrum Award**

The Constance Meldrum Award for Vision and Leadership is dedicated to the memory of Constance Meldrum who was a staunch supporter of the EAIE during her years at the European Commission, where she worked diligently for the cause of international education. When she died, she left a substantial bequest to the EAIE, which the Executive Board decided should be used for an annual EAIE award for vision and leadership in international education. The Constance Meldrum Award was the first EAIE award ever to be presented, and was launched at the EAIE conference in Vienna 2003. It is given to a senior practitioner in international higher education with a track record of high professional standard over a considerable period of time. The winners are widely recognised figures that have been central to processes as well as results in the field, with abilities such as innovation, leadership and inspiration and demonstrated sustainability, dedication and perseverance. The winners have also been very active in promoting and/or advancing the EAIE as an organisation for professionals.

#### **EAIE conference**

The 18th Annual EAIE Conference was held from 13 to 16 September 2006 in Basel, Switzerland. Each year the conference brings together some 2000 international education professionals, who come to network and to update themselves on innovations and developments in the internationalisation of higher education.

#### **Further information**

More information regarding the EAIE and the conference can be obtained from the EAIE Secretariat, PO Box 11189, 1001 GD Amsterdam, The Netherlands, tel +31-20-525 49 99, fax +31-20-525 49 98, e-mail [eaie@eaie.nl](mailto:eaie@eaie.nl) or consult the EAIE website: [www.eaie.org](http://www.eaie.org)

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