

## Editorial

### Barcelona welcomes the Spring Conference of the EUA

On the 3rd of November 1450, in the Italian city of Naples, a privilege awarded by King Alfons the Magnanimous authorised the Council of One Hundred, the institution of the Government of Barcelona, to found a General Study in the city. This is how the Universitat de Barcelona came into being.

558 years later, the historic central building of the university, built in 1882, opens its doors to welcome the representatives of the European universities and other higher education institutions who for three days are taking part in the Spring Conference of the EUA.

On these days, Barcelona becomes the nerve centre of European universities, and in a historic university with an eye to the future. For three days those attending the Spring Conference are taking part in debates and talks that has an underlying theme, "The Governance of European Universities post-2010".

We can expect nothing less than a job well done. For Catalonia it cannot be more hopeful since it is an excellent opportunity to show Europe the Catalan university system. Taking everything into

consideration, and all that it represents, for this first visit, for the importance of a future and of the new visions of a century that has just taken its first steps, Barcelona welcomes the representatives of the European universities and other higher education institutions in the knowledge that they are arriving happy and with the intention that they leave happy. ■

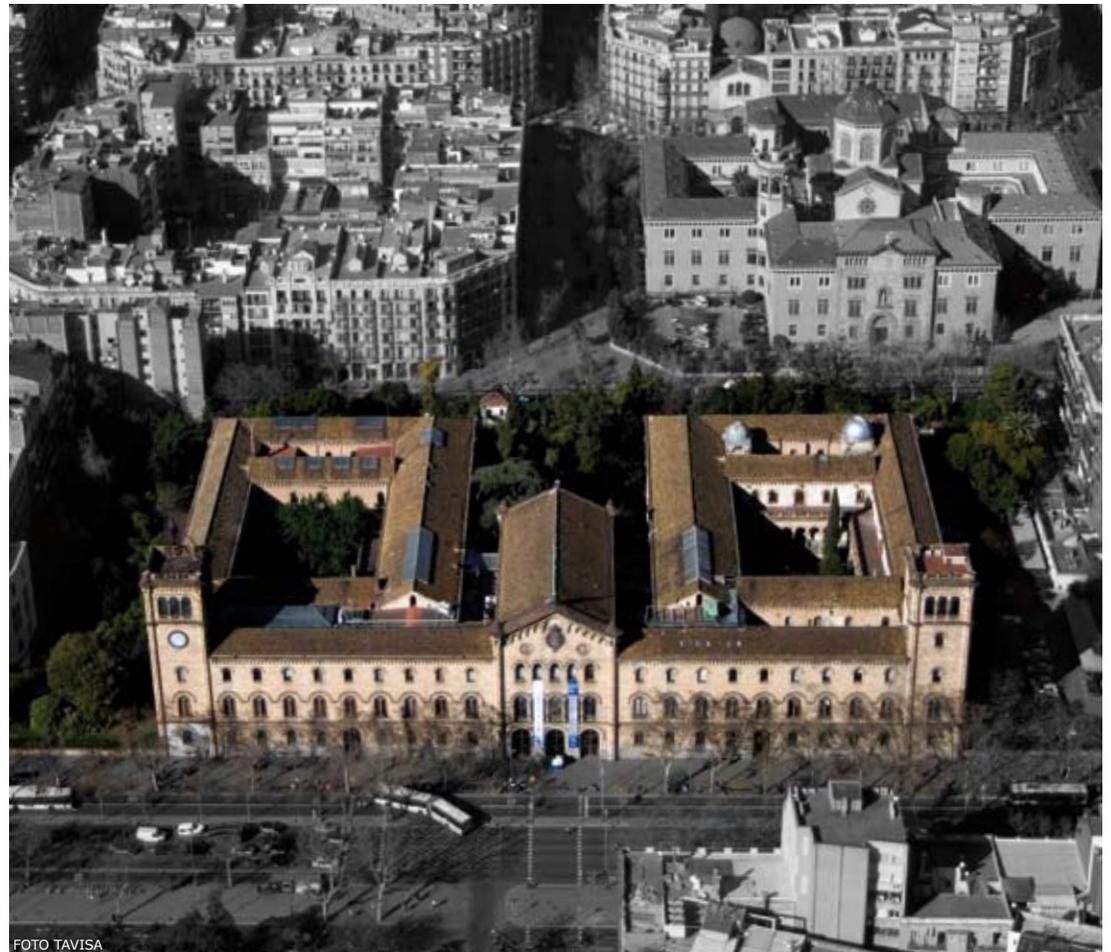


FOTO TAVISA

#### **The President of the Generalitat de Catalunya welcomes the EUA**

José Montilla highlights the strength of the Catalan university system on facing the challenges of higher education beyond 2010.

#### **What does the Catalan university system hope to get from the Conference?**

The 12 rectors of the Catalan universities speak of the hopes placed in the meeting of the EUA in Barcelona

#### **Barcelona: university vocation and tradition**

The Mayor of Barcelona, Jordi Hereu, welcomes the presence of the EUA in the city



### The President of the EUA, Georg Winckler, welcomes you to the Spring Conference in Barcelona

The history of the European University Association began in Spain, in the city of Salamanca, 2001, when the organisation was created by the merger between the Association of European Universities (CRE) and the Confederation of European Union Rectors' Conferences. Today, seven years on, EUA is delighted to return to Spain, to the University of Barcelona, a historic university in Spain's university system.

In my capacity as President of EUA, I welcome you to the EUA Spring Conference, which we hope will be remembered for the conclusions that it reaches in the key area of university governance which affects institutions across Europe. This important conference will continue the debate from the EUA conference in Wroclaw on the crucial issue of institutional and system governance in Europe. During the meeting, we will examine the policies and strategies being pursued by universities and European, regional or national authorities to improve the effectiveness of increasingly diverse higher education institutions and systems.

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This is becoming more and more important across Europe, as universities look to respond to changing societal demands and rising global competition in higher education. The challenge for universities is to define their specific institutional profiles and place in the system by ensuring complementarity and critical mass, thus also contributing to the improvement of social cohesion and the efficiency of the system as a whole. EUA has a central role to play in ensuring that reforms in university governance and autonomy provide the appropriate conditions for strengthening Europe's universities and promoting a European knowledge society. The debates and discussions over the following days will be a vital part of the organisation's work in this area.

We very much hope that you enjoy the EUA Spring Conference here in Barcelona. ■

Professor Georg Winckler, President of the European University Association

## The President of the Generalitat welcomes the EUA

As President of the Generalitat de Catalunya I have the pleasure of warmly welcoming the rector members of the European Universities Association attending the organisation's Spring Conference that is being held in Barcelona.

The conference will focus on a subject of special interest for the universities of Europe and for Catalan universities, "The Governance of European Universities Post 2010 (II): Enhancing Institutional Mission and Profiles".

This conference, sponsored by the Conference of Rectors of Spanish Universities and by the Association of Public Catalan Universities, and which the Universitat de Barcelona has the honour of hosting, will continue the successful debates begun at the Krakow conference last October. Concepts such as autonomy, responsibility, modernisation and quality were debated then, and they will be the focus of discussion at this one.



The Government of the Generalitat is working hard, alongside the university rectors, to strengthen the university system with the aim of making it even more competitive, even though the strength that the Catalan universities possess today leads one to believe that they are in an excellent position to take on the challenges that higher education faces post-2010.

To ensure success in meeting the challenges that the European universities will be facing, it is essential to move towards a framework that encourages an improvement in the systems of governance of universities, an improvement that must be based on the responsible autonomy of the universities towards their objectives and towards their role within society.

Meetings such as these are, without the slightest doubt, ideal spaces to explore institutional strategies that enable us to optimise the efficiency of the university system, taking into account both the national and European contexts and the regional strategies of the universities. ■

José Montilla, President of the Generalitat de Catalunya

## 3 questions for the Rector of the Universitat de Barcelona, Màrius Rubiralta

### In which direction should the Catalan university system go?

It must ensure it becomes integrated into the European Model for Higher Education but at the same time connect with the needs of Catalonia at a social and economic level. And all this without losing sight of its three main goals; education, innovation and research.

### What should we be asking of the Spanish universities?

That they continue working to make their structure and model compatible with the European Model for Higher Education and also in redefining the model of public university and its funding. We must demand a fairer system of grants and other supports in order to extend higher education.

### And now we have the Spring Conference of the EUA...

And I am pleased about that... the European university must insist on its central role in the construction of local, regional and state models based on knowledge as a social and economic response to current challenges. The universities must also respond to globalisation with greater internationalisation and greater quality. And quite clearly, the Conference must address the different forms of governance. ■



## EUA Spring Conference 2008



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## The challenges jointly facing Spanish universities and the EUA

The challenge of the transformation of the university system calls on all the Spanish universities, not just under the umbrella of the Conference of Spanish University Rectors (CRUE), but as part of the work we are involved in a shared task. Coordinated teamwork, underlining the aspects that unite us, is compatible with the necessary singularity and development of our activity in a competitive space. The university community, however, does not end at the borders of our country. Our challenge is to be present beyond our borders, because as well as forming CRUE, we are also part of the EUA, part of the process of transformation, freedom, mobility, which makes us work jointly with the rest of

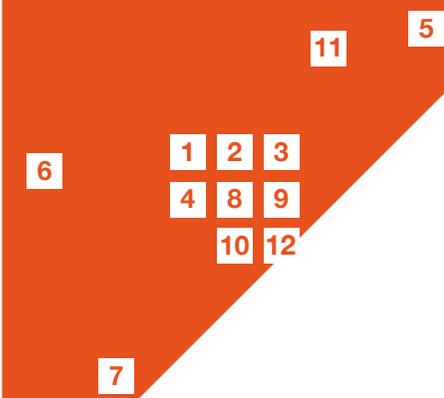
Europe. It involves promoting an open and plural system that generates and transfers knowledge in order to achieve a better society. The active participation of the European Universities Association (EUA) is one of the big challenges of the CRUE, which has always supported the idea of holding the Conference in Spain with the valuable and decisive collaboration of the Universitat de Barcelona. We are taking a step forward along the path towards university excellence (and not elitism, which is something quite different) hand in hand with Europe. The objective is not to come up with a particular, already closed, system, but for all the members of the university community,

in short the citizenry, to move forward together with the aim of creating a space for reflection and freedom for the entire European community that is of benefit to the whole continent. Thank you to every one of you who are making this possible. ■



Ángel Gabilondo, President of the CRUE

CATALONIA



# The 12 rectors from the catalan universities explain what they expect from the spring conference of the EUA

Judith Godoy

More than 210,000 university students and more than 13,000 professors. 12 universities distributed all over Catalonia, 8 public universities and 4 private universities. More than 500 years of university history in Catalonia. "University of Catalonia" is rather more than just a brand.

The 12 rectors of the Catalan universities welcome their colleagues arriving from all over Europe and state the interests, objectives and expectations placed in this meeting that is visiting Catalonia for the first time. The 12 Catalan universities, in the voice of their rectors, explain what they are expecting from the Spring Conference of the EUA.

**1** Màrius Rubiralta // Rector of the Universitat de Barcelona



"I sincerely hope that the fact of holding the conference in Barcelona, with the explicit support of the Catalan university system and of the Conference of Rectors of Spanish Universities, will lead to a stage in which our universities have a leading role in the construction of the future of the European higher education and research area, within the framework of efficient and strong action that the EUA undertakes on a day-to-day basis."

**2** Lluís Ferrer // Rector of the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona



"To attain understanding of the strategies followed by other European institutions in order to answer the great challenge of developing the High Education system in the Catalan Universities in the new ESHE".

**3** Antoni Giró // Rector of the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya



"UPC welcomes the EUA Spring Conference where the ACUP (Catalan Association of Public Universities) will be accepted as a new full member. I am very positive that this recognition will be very fruitful for a new vision in the development of the European Higher Education Space."

**4** Josep Joan Moreso // Rector of the Universitat Pompeu Fabra



"Understanding first hand the challenges shared with the other European universities and contributing to the construction of the European Space of Higher Education from the perspective of a public, young-minded and urban university, oriented towards research and founded with an international vocation"

**5** Anna M. Geli // Rector of the Universitat de Girona and President of the Catalan Association of Public Universities, ACUP



"The conference that the EUA is holding in Barcelona must contribute to a greater knowledge and appreciation of the Catalan universities in Europe."

**6** Joan Viñas // Rector of the Universitat de Lleida



"The EUA conference in Barcelona is about the governance of European universities. I hope, as always, to share our experience with other rectors and learn from everyone in order to improve the Universitat de Lleida and the Catalan university system."

**7** Francesc Xavier Grau // Rector of the Universitat Rovira i Virgili



"Going further into the debate we began in Breslau, in order to help define the model of governance of the higher education system boosted by the construction of this Europe of knowledge. The results will also serve to develop the commitment, at a regional level, that the Catalan universities have made with the recent creation of the University of Catalonia framework."

**8** Imma Tubella // Rector of the Open University of Catalonia



"EUA's Barcelona Spring Conference is an opportunity to rethink governance through an open, flexible, collaborative and diverse approach to fulfill our mission: upgrading quality."

**9** Josep Maria Alsina // Rector of the Universitat Abat Oliba CEU



"In my opinion, the conference is a very important meeting: on the one hand, we find ourselves immersed in a process of educational convergence at a European level, as well as the need to revitalise higher education within the setting of an increasingly globalised world."

**10** Esther Giménez-Salinas // Rector of the Universitat Ramon Llull



"It is a great opportunity to share and debate what we want the university of the future to be like. In this sense I hope that we can consolidate the idea that the universities do not only have to fulfil their traditional educational and investigative function but also to play a leading role as a social, cultural and economic agent of our societies"

**11** Assumpta Fargas // Rector of the Universitat de Vic



"We hope that there will be interesting contributions to the debate about the governance of universities, a subject that must be dealt with urgently if the European university wishes to respond to the challenges posed by globalisation."

**12** Josep Argemí // Rector of the Universitat Internacional de Catalunya



"I hope that the Spring Conference of the European Universities Association produces a mutual strengthening of the universities in the not always easy task of implementing the Bologna process. This meeting will be important for publicising the level of Catalan universities in Europe and favouring the Spanish leadership in extending the Spanish European Higher Education Space towards the South American countries."

## Barcelona, a city to experience

David Serra

Barcelona and its oldest university, the Universitat de Barcelona, are the setting for the Spring Conference of the European Universities Association (EUA). For three days the city becomes the European university centre, a privilege for a university city.

Why a university city? Barcelona has 7 universities, which gives the city a youthful air. A young city... with more than 2,000 years' history. The fact is Barcelona is history, which one can relive wandering around many spots: the church of Santa Maria del Mar, the Ribera district, the Cathedral, Plaça Sant Jaume, meeting point of the spider's web of streets that form the Gothic Quarter.

We start on a walk that will take us to a multifaceted Barcelona. In the Modernist city, from the symbolic Sagrada Família to the spectacular Parc Güell, symbols of the city of an architect, Antoni Gaudí, through to the Palau de la Música, Casa Batlló, the Hospital de Sant Pau i Santa Creu, Casa Amatller, La Pedrera... authentic works of art of a Modernist and modern Barcelona: such as the impressive building in the heart of the Raval district that houses the Museum of Contemporary Art of Barcelona, the MACBA; or the sheer size and originality of the Torre Agbar. Modernity like that of the Fòrum, a new space that opens up the city even more to the sea. Barcelona is a privileged city, a city that rests between the

waters of the Mediterranean and the air from the green space of the Parc Natural de Collserola. A green Barcelona, with its parks and gardens, from the Parc del Laberint d'Horta to the Parc de la Ciutadella, touching the sea. It is a park that is one of the most charming corners of the city and which was built for the Universal Exhibition of 1888, an example of a city open to the world. Evidence of this is the second Universal Exhibition that was organised, in 1929, recovering a new spot, Montjuïc, with the Palau Nacional, which currently houses the National Museum of Art of Catalonia, MNAC, overlooking the spectacular sight of the Montjuïc Fountains. A city open to the world, as was clearly shown once again in the holding of the XXV Olympic Games in 1992. Barcelona is also sport, with the axis of the Anella Olímpica, the Olympic Ring, a sporting city scattered with an increasing number of bicycles. Sport is culture and the city is also for enjoying culture: the Teatre Grec, the new Auditori, the Gran Teatre del Liceu.

This is all Barcelona, a city for living in and experiencing, a city for strolling around, from the Born district to the spectacular Passeig de Gràcia, passing by the Passeig Marítim... All of this is Barcelona, a city for sharing and always ready to open up to people, as on this occasion, welcoming all the representatives of the European universities. ■

## Barcelona: university vocation and tradition

The Universitat de Barcelona has 558 years of history. Since 1450, when King Alfons the Magnanimous authorised the Council of One Hundred, at that time the basic governmental structure of Barcelona, to found a General Study in Barcelona, this institution has been fundamentally linked to the evolution of the city's excellence. Today Barcelona is home to four of the eight Catalan public universities and three private universities. Barcelona is a university centre: it is a campus and it is knowledge.



Barcelona is and wants to continue being a university model of research and innovation, a focal point of creation and a magnet to talent and creativity. Our model of the city, based on social and regional cohesion, prioritises

education, as a training sphere of citizenry, and encourages the capacity of this human capital, the main asset of the whole city and whole country, to transform knowledge into added value. Knowledge is the best commitment to the future that a city can have in order to achieve a public-spirited, cohesive society that both learns and teaches from a basis of respect and equal opportunities.

I am quite sure that, in the constructive process of the city of knowledge, a basic factor is to promote research, technological development and innovation, in order to ensure that the wealth of our country, our wellbeing, is based on knowledge and technology, and not just on services. With this in mind, Barcelona is well positioned to compete, because it has important assets in R&D. We have high-level universities and higher education centres, leading institutes and research centres and enterprising infrastructures of support and capacity. One excellent example is the Eix de la Recerca de la Diagonal (Research Channel) as a top-level scientific area made up of the university area of Pedralbes-Les Corts and the areas of transformation of 22@/Forum/ Campus de Llevant. This channel also crosses and links the city from north to south, by means of knowledge. Within this channel of knowledge is the Parc Científic de Barcelona, the BCN Super-Computing Centre (with

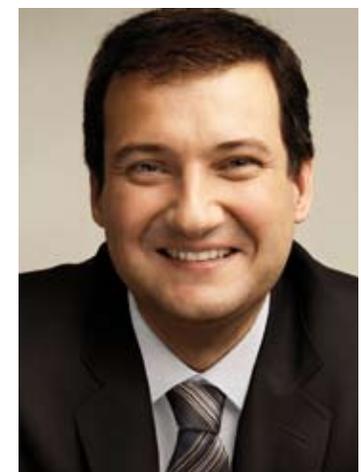
the Mare Nostrum computer), the Parc de Recerca Biomèdica, 22@ and the future Campus de Llevant.

Cities such as Barcelona must be involved with the universities so that, through their numerous projects, they become the economic, cultural and demographic driving forces of the city, at the same time enabling the cities to share and establish programmes of cooperation in questions of research and know-how which today is, by definition, global.

I am sure that in these three days in Barcelona, this new Spring Conference of European rectors will mark a point of inflection in both the university model and in the future European university policies, crucial for their social and economic effects.

Today Barcelona is becoming the European city of excellence. Barcelona is hosting this Conference of European Rectors with pride and with the desire that the ideas debated remain associated with the new drive and new European concept of education and university training.

Welcome to Barcelona and thank you, rectors, for having chosen us! ■



Jordi Hereu, Mayor of Barcelona



## The weather

Barcelona

Thursday, 27th March



Friday, 28th March



Saturday, 29th March



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