At the request of the CPU, the representatives of the presidents’ and rectors’ conferences of German, British, Spanish, Dutch, Portuguese, Romanian, Czech and French universities met in Paris on May 23th, before the launch of the Paris Conference. The CPU and its European counterparts wanted to seize this opportunity in order to discuss key issues about Europe’s future in terms of training, research and innovation.

At the end of this meeting, the conferences agreed that they would meet two to three times a year, on the occasion of EUA (European University Association)’s assemblies, so as to increase the impact of European conferences in the public debate and make the voices of universities better heard.

The meeting held at the Sorbonne was an opportunity to discuss further support of the Bologna Process beyond the Paris Conference as well as the creation of "European Universities", which would be more appropriately called "Alliance of European Universities".

The various conferences emphasized their positions concerning the implementation of those alliances: the process must be bottom-up, take into account a variety of models and integrate the three dimensions of the knowledge triangle: teaching and training, research, and innovation. In addition, they expressed their common wish that the mapping out of such alliances would continue beyond the initial pilot phase.

In the future, other topics will be tackled such as support for universities’ ecosystems, as part of the "territorial connections" project, now upheld by several rectors’ and presidents’ conferences, the subject of distributed excellence, etc.

This meeting marked an important step in the common strategies of the presidents’ and rectors’ conferences. In connection with the emergence of European universities alliances, it is one of the CPU’s priorities to establish closer links with its counterparts in Europe like those it has already woven with German and Polish conferences.