

**23 April 2018**

**Karim Khakzar to continue as elected Spokesperson of HRK Universities of Applied Sciences Member Group**

Prof Dr Karim Khakzar is to continue as Spokesperson of the Universities of Applied Sciences Member Group in the German Rectors' Conference (HRK). The President of Fulda University of Applied Sciences was elected by the Member Group for another two-year term of office today in Mannheim.

Since his election, Khakzar has worked to improve framework conditions for universities of applied sciences in Germany. From the point of view of universities of applied sciences, the most important issues include consolidation of the Higher Education Pact 2020, improvement in funding for research and transfer and support for recruiting professors to universities of applied sciences.

The Member Group consists of 118 universities of applied sciences. Khakzar has chaired the Group since 1 August 2016. He has been President of Fulda University of Applied Sciences since 2008 and is a professor in the department of Applied Informatics there. After obtaining his doctoral degree from the University of Stuttgart, he spent five years working in the telecommunications industry before returning to academia.

The Spokespersons of the Universities and Universities of Applied Sciences Member Groups are members of the HRK Executive Board. They are elected directly by the Groups; two re-elections are permitted.