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|  | European Schools  Office of the Secretary-General  **General Secretariat** |

Ref.: 2014-09-D-37-en-3

Orig.: EN

Situation of the German language section at the European School, Mol

**BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

Meeting on 2, 3, and 4 December 2014 – Brussels

I. Introduction

The Board of Governors, in its meeting in April 2014, was informed of the stability of the different existing sections in the various schools.

At this meeting the situation of the German language section in the European School of Mol was also noted.

According to document “CRITERIA FOR THE SETTING-UP, CLOSURE OR MAINTENANCE OF EUROPEAN SCHOOLS” Ref.: 2000-D-1110, the Administrative Board of the European School, Mol is providing the Board of Governors with further information on the stability of the German speaking section.

The Board of Governors could then decide whether or not a specific working group with the mandate to evaluate the situation of the language section concerned should be created. This working group would report its findings to the Board of Governors before any decisions might be made regarding the future of the relevant section.

The composition of the working group is specified in document 2000-D-1110 (Annex 1):

*This working group would be composed of a representative:*

*• of the Commission*

*• of the host country of the School*

*• of the inspectorate*

*• of the AFC* (today Budgetary Committee)

*It would be chaired by the Representative of the Board of Governors or his delegate.*

*It would also include a representative of the staff of the School, a representative of the parents and the Director.*

II. Present situation

The pertinent information relating to the population of students in the German language section in Mol are attached at the end of this document. (Annex 3)

The Administrative Board of Mol reported its support for the work of the management team and the whole school community in promoting not only the German language section of the school but the whole ethos of the European School system. They were told of the on-going work that has been carried out and the sustained efforts, over the last 18 months, to increase the population of the German language section. The management reported that they were very hopeful that this increase in numbers to a more viable section could be achieved in a very short period of time. The school is currently in the process of finalising negotiations with a number of companies who the school hope will sign category II contacts for children to attend the German speaking section. The school understand that in the case of one company this could, over a number of years, yield upwards of 60 students to the German language section.

The school has also been holding meetings with EATC (European Air Transport Command ) in Eindhoven which is less than 30 minutes from the school They have previously applied for Category I status within our system but have, as yet, not been successful. The school is examining routes that might make it possible for the children of these military personnel from the 6 current delegations involved (Germany, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg and Spain.) to attend the European School of Mol. EATC will continue to increase in size with new member states joining over the next few years. (Countries who have expressed interest include Italy, Poland and Portugal) While the school already have some students of EATC personnel the school is working on some complications that are specific to certain delegations and prevent students from enrolling at the European School of Mol. The school is hopeful that with solutions to these issues they can be the school of first choice for these families into the future.

The school has also been promoting the possibilities to families in the Brussels area, as the school in Mol is not restricted and so can offer Category I, II and III students places. The school has the possibility to increase the numbers of student who currently reside at a nearby boarding school and attend the school in Mol. Combined with a selection of host families attached to the school and the bus and train transport possibilities to attend the school from Brussels, the school also believe that into the future this would be a growth area in attracting student not only to the German language section but also to the school as a whole.

The school continues to build links with various communities, in particular German speaking communities in an effort to attract German speaking student s to our school. The school recently had a visit from the German Ambassador and he continues to support our work through his offices.

The school is confident that the enrolment to the German speaking section can increase and that over the next number of years can build a viable and stable German language section.

III. Proposal for the BIS and JTC

It is proposed that a specific working group be created, charged with evaluating the situation of the language section concerned. This working group will report its findings to the Board of Governors before a decision is made regarding this section’s future at the Mol School.

**OPINION OF THE JOINT BOARD OF INSPECTORS**

The Joint Board of Inspectors expressed a favourable opinion on the setting up of a Working Group, whose work would need to extend over a two-year period, to evaluate the situation of the German language section at the European School, Mol.

**OPINION OF THE JOINT TEACHING COMMITTEE**

The Joint Teaching Committee expressed a favourable opinion on the setting up of a Working Group to evaluate the situation of the German language section at the European School, Mol.

The Joint Teaching Committee recommended that the Working Group should present its report in autumn 2016 at the earliest.

**OPINION OF THE BUDGETARY COMMITTEE**

The Budgetary Committee was informed by means of a Written Communication. However, some members requested that the item be discussed.

The European Commission referred to the overlong time period (two years) given to the working group to make an analysis and produce its recommendations and wished there to be recommendations already for 2015.

The Director and Interparents were of the opinion that it was important to allow time for the negotiations.

**PROPOSAL**

The Joint Board of Inspectors and the Joint Teaching Committee invite the Board of Governors to endorse the proposal appearing in point III of the document and consequently to create a working group charged with evaluating the situation of the German language section of the European School, Mol, bearing in mind the opinions and comments made at the different meetings of the Board/Committees (see above).

**Relevant Documents**

CRITERIA FOR THE SETTING-UP, CLOSURE OR MAINTENANCE OF EUROPEAN SCHOOLS” Ref.: 2000-D-1110 (Annex 1: extracts)

**ANNEX 1**

**Extract from: Criteria for the setting-up, closure or maintenance of European Schools**

**(Document 2000-d-1110)**

**…….**

This proposal would initially be considered by a working group appointed by the Board of Governors. This working group would be composed of a representative:

• of the Commission

• of the host country of the School

• of the inspectorate

• of the AFC

It would be chaired by the Representative of the Board of Governors or his delegate.

The Board of Governors would take its decision after having examined the conclusions presented by the working group.

**…….**

The closure of a language section may be envisaged when it falls short of 37 pupils in the primary cycle and 42 pupils in the secondary cycle for two consecutive years or when the small number of category I and II pupils calls into question the continuing existence of this language section.

This rule may not, however, prejudice the continuing existence of at least one language section per official language of the European Union in cities where Community institutions and bodies are heavily concentrated (Brussels and Luxembourg at present).

Moreover, any language section which no longer met the criteria indicated in point 3 above might nevertheless remain open if, at the request of the State concerned, the costs inherent in the employment of the teaching staff seconded by it were defrayed entirely by the State in question, or by the Community body for which the School has been set up, or a form of co-funding arrangement between the Member State and the latter body were adopted.

In each of the three situations referred to above, an evaluation of the situation of the school or (in the cases referred to in 3) of the language section(s) concerned should be made by the Board of Governors before initiating the relevant closure procedure. This evaluation would be made on the basis of the work done by a working group appointed by the Board of Governors.

This working group would be constituted as indicated in point 2.0 above. It would also include a representative of the staff of the School, a representative of the parents and the Director.

**ANNEX 2**

**Data about German language section in European School of Mol October 2014**

**Numbers of students by cycle in the German language section**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| School year | Total Nursery | Total Primary | Total Secondary | Total |
| 2010-2011 | 13 | 19 | 44 | 76 |
| 2011-2012 | 14 | 20 | 42 | 76 |
| 2012-2013 | 10 | 22 | 31 | 63 |
| 2013-2014 | 10 | 17 | 24 | 51 |
| 2014-2015 | 9 | 15 | 19 | 43 |

**Grouping in Primary**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| School year | Grouping | Population | Grouping | Population | Total |
| 2010-2011 | P1-P2-P3 | 7 | P4-P5 | 12 | 19 |
| 2011-2012 | P1-P2 | 9 | P3-P4-P5 | 11 | 20 |
| 2012-2013 | P1-P2 | 13 | P3-P4-P5 | 9 | 22 |
| 2013-2014 | P1-P2-P4-P5 | 10 | P3 | 7 | 17 |
| 2014-2015 | P1-P2-P3 | 7 | P4-P5 | 8 | 15 |

**Grouping in Nursery**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| School year | Grouping | Population |
| 2010-2011 | N1-N2 | 13 |
| 2011-2012 | N1-N2 | 14 |
| 2012-2013 | N1-N2 | 10 |
| 2013-2014 | N1-N2 | 10 |
| 2014-2015 | N1-N2 | 9 |

**Grouping in Secondary**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| School year | Group/ no class | Population | Separate classes | Population | Total |
| 2010-2011 | / |  | S1-S2-S3-S4-S5-S6-S7 | 5-7-4-8-6-4-10 | 44 |
| 2011-2012 | / |  | S1-S2-S3-S4-S5-S6-S7 | 8-4-6-3-8-8-5 | 42 |
| 2012-2013 | / |  | S1-S2-S3-S4-S5-S6-S7 | 4-5-2-3-3-6-8 | 31 |
| 2013-2014 | S1-2 | 3 | S3-S4-S5-S6-S7 | 6-2-4-3-6 | 24 |
| 2014-2015 | S2-S3(partly Human Science is not possible) | 3 | S4-S5-S6-S7 | 4-2-7-3 | 19 |

**Percentage of Category I students by section**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  |  |
| German language Section | 37% |
| English language Section | 22% |
| French language Section | 18% |
| Dutch language Section | 23% |

**Data relating to seconded German language teachers with start date and end of secondment dates.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Cycle | Subject/area | Start of secondment | Projected end of secondment |
| Primary | Class teacher | 2012 | 2021 |
| Primary | Class Teacher | 2014 | 2023 |
| Secondary | Language/Phil | 2007(Bergen)2012(Mol) | 2017 |
| Secondary | Maths | 2013 | 2022 |
| Secondary | Human Science | 2006 | 2015 |
| Secondary | Language | 2013 | 2022 |
| Secondary | Bio/Chem/Sci | 2014 | 2023 |
| Secondary | Art | 2014 | 2023 |

**Locally recruited teachers:**

Nursery class teacher, working in the school from 1993

Secondary teacher Religion, working in the school from 2013

**Annex 3**

**EUROPEAN**COMMISSION

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL JOINTRESEARCHCENTRE

•Ref.Ares (2014)3207049-30/09/2014

DirectorateD-InstituteforReferenceMaterialsandMeasurements

Director

Geel,30September2014

JRC.D/EA/bk/ARES(2014)

EuropeanSchool,Mol

Attn:Mr.BrianGoggins,Director

Europawijk100

B-2400Mol

**Subject: GermanSection,EuropeanSchool,Mol**



Ithascomemyknowledgethattherearediscussions withregardtotheexistenceofthe GermanSectionattheEuropeanSchoolinMol.Iwouldthereforeliketocomewitha fewcommentstotakeintoconsiderationinfuturemeeting.

ForafacttheGermansection hasthehighestpercentageofCategory1students(35%), andforrecruitmentpurposesinmyinstitute,theJRCIRMM,itisofutmostimportance thatwecanstillattractpeoplefromtheGermanspeakingscientificcommunities.It is importantforustobeablenotonlytoofferaplaceattheEuropeanschoolbutalsooffer theGermansection.Thisbecomesclearatinterviewswithourpotentialnewcolleagues. ThevarioussectionsoftheEuropeanschoolareanissueeverytimetheapplicantshave children.

Forthisreason,IwouldstronglyrecommendtokeeptheGermansectionforthefuture. I amalwaysatyourdisposalformorediscussion.

Kindregards,

*Signature*

ElkeAnklam

Director

Retieseweg,B-2440Geel-Belgium.Telephone:(32-14)571-211.

**Annex 4**



ParentsAssociation

Mol,October3rd2014

DearBrian,

IamwritingonbehalfoftheparentsofthepupilsoftheEuropeanSchoolinMolingeneraland,morein particular,oftheGermansection.

Iwanttoexpressmymajorconcernontheeffectthatatoorestrictiveinterpretation andhastyapplicationof document2000-D-1110"Criteriaforthesetting-up,closureormaintenanceofEuropeanSchools"willhavein thecontextofourSchool.

IwouldliketostresstheimportanceoftheexistenceoftheGermansectioninourEuropeanSchoolforthe followingreasons:

• thereductionofthenumberofsectionsfromfourtothree,willhaveanenormousimpactonthe overallattractivenessandreputationofourschool.

• indirectly,itwillalsohaveamajoreffectontheothersections:bothinthevarietyofsubjectsoffered andtheculturalcontextfortheentireschoolcommunity.

• thefinancialsavingspursuedwiththeclosingofthesectionswillnotbeassubstantialasgenerally assumed:currentlythesectionisalreadystrainedwithgroupingsandreductionofhours,duetothe applicationofDocument33andanyadditionalsavingswillbeminimal.

Inaddition,IwouldliketopointoutalsotheGermanSectionhasthehighestpercentageofcategoryIpupils andthat,onbehalfoftheParentsworkingattheclosebyInstituteoftheEuropeanCommission,Iwantto highlightthattheexistenceoftheGermansectionisofcrucialimportanceandwhenclosingitwillthusalso affectsubstantiallytheEuropeanCommission'scurrentandfuturestaff.

With thisletter Ialsowantto highlighttheenormousefforts theSchool'smanagementhasinvestedin promotingand increasingthepopulationoftheGermansectionoverthelast18months.Itaketheoccasion withthislettertoexpressthePA'sadmiration,gratitudeandfullsupportfortheSchool'smanagementtothis end.I amhopefulthattheseactionswillresultinasubstantialincreaseoftheGermansectioninourschoolfor thenearfuturethusallowingtheGermansectiontoflourishagain.

Concluding,IwanttostressagainthatIfirmlybelievethecontinuationoftheexistenceoftheGermansection hasandwillhaveapositiveimpactontheattractivenessandreputationingeneralandtheviabilityonthelong termfortheentireEuropeanSchoolinMol.

*Signature*

GertrudLovestam

PresidentoftheParentsAssociationESMol