|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Schola Europaea**  Office of the Secretary-General  General Secretariat |

**Ref.: 2015-10-D-26-en-3**

**Original**

**Creation of Latvian and Slovakian language sections**

**Board of Governors of the European Schools**

**Meeting on 1-3 December 2015 - Brussels**

1. **BACKGROUND**

On account of the increase in the Latvian and Slovakian population in the Brussels Schools, the Brussels Steering committee and the Central Enrolment Authority have proposed that Latvian and Slovakian language sections be created in the Nursery and at Primary 1-2 levels at the European School, Brussels I – Berkendael site starting from 1 September 2016.

1. **LANGUAGE SECTIONS IN BRUSSELS**

The number of pupils on roll in the four Brussels European Schools is also rising steadily. The Brussels I, II and III Schools are overcrowded despite the efforts made by the Central Enrolment Authority to distribute pupils across the four schools. One of the factors behind this overcrowding lies in the schools’ linguistic structure, the characteristics of which have an impact on the allocation of places in each of them.

* Language sections

The four Brussels Schools currently have 18 language sections, breaking down as follows:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Schools** | **DE** | **EN** | **FR** | **BG** | **CS** | **DA** | **ET\*** | **EL** | **ES** | **FI** | **HU** | **IT** | **LT** | **NL** | **PL** | **PT** | **RO** | **SV** | **Total** |
| **BXL I** | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |  |  | ✓ |  |  | ✓ |  | ✓ | ✓ |  |  | ✓ |  |  |  | **8** |
| **BXL II** | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |  |  |  |  |  |  | ✓ |  | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |  | ✓ |  | ✓ | **9** |
| **BXL III** | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |  | ✓ |  |  | ✓ | ✓ |  |  |  |  | ✓ |  |  |  |  | **7** |
| **BXL IV** | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |  |  | ✓ |  |  |  |  | ✓ |  | ✓ |  |  | ✓ |  | **8** |
| **Total** | **4** | **4** | **4** | **1** | **1** | **1** | **1** | **1** | **2** | **1** | **1** | **3** | **1** | **3** | **1** | **1** | **1** | **1** | **32** |

**\*The Board of Governors has decided to open an Estonian section at Brussels IV starting from 1 September 2016**

The DE, EN and FR sections are present in the four schools, the IT and NL sections in three schools and the ES section in two schools.

12 language sections (BG, CS, DA, ET, EL, FI, HU, LT, PL, PT, RO and SV) are so-called single sections, as each is present in only one school.

It should be noted that the Bulgarian, Romanian, Lithuanian and Czech language sections are not yet complete from the Nursery up to Secondary S7 level and the Estonian section will be opened only starting from 1 September 2016. At present, all the Estonian pupils are on roll as SWALS at the Brussels II School.

* SWALS

SWALS have been distributed in the Anglophone, Francophone and German-speaking sections across the four schools. The Croatian population is at Brussels IV, the Latvian population is at Brussels II, the Slovakian pupils are at Brussels III and the Slovenian pupils are at Brussels I. In addition, Maltese pupils are in the Anglophone section of Brussels I.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SWALS in Brussels** | | | | | |
| **Schools** | **HR** | **LV** | **SK** | **SL** | **Total** |
| **BXL I** |  |  |  | ✓ | 1 |
| **BXL II** |  | ✓ |  |  | 1 |
| **BXL III** |  |  | ✓ |  | 1 |
| **BXL IV** | ✓ |  |  |  | 1 |
| **Total** | **1** | **1** | **1** | **1** | **4** |

The increase in the SWALS population at Brussels II and Brussels III has become critical. On average, there are 53% SWALS in the Anglophone classes at Brussels II (Annex 1) and there are over 40% SWALS in several French classes (Annex 2) also. A solution to the SWALS situation needs to be found by creating Latvian and Slovakian sections.

1. **CREATION OF LANGUAGE SECTIONS IN BRUSSELS**

* Rules for creation of a language section

The criteria for the setting up of a language section were determined by the Board of Governors in October 2000 (Document 2000-D-179).

The so-called ‘Gaignage report’ (Criteria for the setting up, closure or maintenance of European Schools, 2000-D-7510) provided indicative criteria for the creation of a language section:

“*- a minimum of 75 primary pupils from the 5th year after its opening;*

*- a minimum of 84 secondary pupils from the 7th year after its opening.*

*The figures adopted (75 pupils in the primary section and 84 in the secondary section) are applicable to the year groups as a whole in each of these sections*

*For number of Category I pupils to be minimum of 70% of the total number on roll in cities where Community Institutions and bodies are heavily concentrated (Brussels and Luxembourg at present) and 50% in other cases.”*

* Latvian and Slovakian pupil populations

The Estonian, Latvian, and Slovakian populations have been growing steadily and at the same speed in recent years. Simulations indicate that this growth is set to continue in the future.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **ET** | **LV** | **SK** |
| **2007-2008** | 61 | 46 | 70 |
| **2008-2009** | 65 | 51 | 70 |
| **2009-2010** | 82 | 53 | 71 |
| **2010-2011** | 89 | 67 | 78 |
| **2011-2012** | 107 | 81 | 85 |
| **2012-2013** | 115 | 101 | 107 |
| **2013-2014** | 138 | 130 | 128 |
| **2014-2015** | 144 | 147 | 143 |
| **2015-2016** | 156 | 145 | 149 |

It can be concluded that there are sufficient numbers of Latvian and Slovakian pupils in the Brussels II and Brussels III Schools to justify the creation of sections for those two languages.

* Steering Committee: Discussion

The Steering Committee discussed the need to create Latvian and Slovakian sections at several meetings.

On the basis of a request from the Slovakian delegation, the possibility of creation of a Slovakian section (Nursery in September 2016) at the Brussels III School was explored.

The proposal was not supported by the school’s Management or by the Steering Committee. The reasoning was very clear: the Brussels III School does not have the physical space required to create an additional full set of classes for the Nursery and Primary levels.

* Central Enrolment Authority: Discussion

The Central Enrolment Authority discussed the enrolment guidelines for the 2016-2017 school year on 21 October. The overcrowding situation in all four existing European Schools has become critical. The resources available in the four schools and those of the Berkendael site would need to be used in order to lessen as far as possible the overcrowding of the schools as a whole.

The Central Enrolment Authority proposed that Latvian and Slovakian Nursery and Primary 1-2 classes be created at the European School, Brussels I – Berkendael site with new enrolments.

It was also proposed that all Latvian and Slovakian pupils currently in the Nursery and in Primary 1-2 could be offered the possibility of requesting a voluntary transfer to the Berkendael site.

1. **OPINION OF THE BUDGETARY COMMITTEE**

The Committee recommended the creation of the Latvian and Slovakian sections under the Gaignage criteria.

The Slovakian delegation was unable to support the creation of a Slovakian section in a school other than Brussels III.

1. **PROPOSAL**

The Board of Governors is requested to approve the creation of:

1. A Latvian language section at the European School, Brussels I – Berkendael site for the beginning of the 2016-2017 school year in September 2016, designed ultimately to comprise the nursery and primary cycles in their entirety, starting in September 2016 with the nursery cycle and the primary year 1 and 2 levels.
2. A Slovakian language section at the European School, Brussels I – Berkendael site for the beginning of the 2016-2017 school year in September 2016, designed ultimately to comprise the nursery and primary cycles in their entirety, starting in September 2016 with the nursery cycle.

These new language sections should be created with new enrolments and respecting the principle of protection of grouping and regrouping of siblings, so that all new enrolments with brothers or sisters in the higher year groups would be able to receive schooling in the same school as their older siblings, provided that the application was submitted during the first enrolment phase.All pupils currently enrolled as SWALS in Nursery, P1 and P2 will be able to continue schooling as SWALS in the same schoolwhere they are currently enrolled and continue there until Baccalaureate, unless voluntarily expressed otherwise.

ANNEX 1 – SWALS in the Anglophone section of Brussels II and Brussels III

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **BXL II** |  | **2011-2012** | **2012-2013** | **2013-2014** | **2014-2015** | **2015-2016** |
| **N** | **1** | *80%* | *55%* | *75%* | *78%* | *36%* |
|  | **2** | *38%* | *82%* | *65%* | *83%* | *76%* |
| **N** | Total: | ***50%*** | ***68%*** | ***69%*** | ***81%*** | ***57%*** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **P** | **1** | *37%* | *33%* | *71%* | *52%* | *56%* |
|  | **2** | *39%* | *42%* | *36%* | *73%* | *54%* |
|  | **3** | *31%* | *41%* | *55%* | *33%* | *70%* |
|  | **4** | *35%* | *34%* | *45%* | *57%* | *41%* |
|  | **5** | *42%* | *38%* | *37%* | *42%* | *47%* |
| **P** | Total: | ***37%*** | ***38%*** | ***46%*** | ***49%*** | ***52%*** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **S** | **1** | *33%* | *57%* | *59%* | *57%* | *44%* |
|  | **2** | *50%* | *35%* | *52%* | *63%* | *55%* |
|  | **3** | *43%* | *47%* | *42%* | *53%* | *62%* |
|  | **4** | *32%* | *39%* | *50%* | *43%* | *53%* |
|  | **5** | *25%* | *39%* | *40%* | *50%* | *48%* |
|  | **6** | *20%* | *27%* | *42%* | *45%* | *61%* |
|  | **7** | *27%* | *19%* | *29%* | *44%* | *44%* |
| **S** | Total: | ***32%*** | ***37%*** | ***43%*** | ***50%*** | ***52%*** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **TOTAL:** | | ***35%*** | ***39%*** | ***46%*** | ***52%*** | ***53%*** |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **BXL III** |  | **2011-2012** | **2012-2013** | **2013-2014** | **2014-2015** | **2015-2016** |
| **N** | **1** | *5%* | *40%* | *37%* | *32%* | *40%* |
|  | **2** | *13%* | *10%* | *26%* | *38%* | *29%* |
| **N** | Total: | ***9%*** | ***20%*** | ***30%*** | ***35%*** | ***33%*** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **P** | **1** | *12%* | *18%* | *14%* | *20%* | *48%* |
|  | **2** | *21%* | *12%* | *15%* | *17%* | *22%* |
|  | **3** | *20%* | *23%* | *13%* | *15%* | *17%* |
|  | **4** | *14%* | *20%* | *24%* | *14%* | *17%* |
|  | **5** | *15%* | *18%* | *17%* | *24%* | *11%* |
| **P** | Total: | ***17%*** | ***18%*** | ***17%*** | ***18%*** | ***22%*** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **S** | **1** | *13%* | *11%* | *17%* | *18%* | *26%* |
|  | **2** | *10%* | *10%* | *11%* | *23%* | *23%* |
|  | **3** | *12%* | *12%* | *8%* | *19%* | *24%* |
|  | **4** | *10%* | *11%* | *14%* | *6%* | *20%* |
|  | **5** | *15%* | *9%* | *13%* | *13%* | *12%* |
|  | **6** | *25%* | *12%* | *17%* | *16%* | *17%* |
|  | **7** | *9%* | *25%* | *12%* | *13%* | *18%* |
| **S** | Total: | ***13%*** | ***13%*** | ***13%*** | ***15%*** | ***20%*** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **TOTAL:** | | ***14%*** | ***15%*** | ***16%*** | ***18%*** | ***22%*** |

ANNEX 2 – SWALS in the French section of Brussels II and Brussels III

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **BXL II** |  | **2011-2012** | **2012-2013** | **2013-2014** | **2014-2015** | **2015-2016** |
| **N** | **1** | *57%* | *56%* | *68%* | *62%* | *42%* |
|  | **2** | *43%* | *69%* | *66%* | *70%* | *46%* |
| **N** | Total: | ***49%*** | ***63%*** | ***67%*** | ***67%*** | ***44%*** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **P** | **1** | *20%* | *26%* | *59%* | *50%* | *46%* |
|  | **2** | *13%* | *20%* | *24%* | *54%* | *40%* |
|  | **3** | *16%* | *12%* | *27%* | *21%* | *39%* |
|  | **4** | *8%* | *15%* | *12%* | *25%* | *11%* |
|  | **5** | *10%* | *6%* | *15%* | *16%* | *22%* |
| **P** | Total: | ***13%*** | ***15%*** | ***27%*** | ***34%*** | ***32%*** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **S** | **1** | *14%* | *12%* | *8%* | *15%* | *10%* |
|  | **2** | *0%* | *15%* | *10%* | *9%* | *14%* |
|  | **3** | *4%* | *0%* | *18%* | *8%* | *5%* |
|  | **4** | *1%* | *4%* | *5%* | *16%* | *7%* |
|  | **5** | *0%* | *1%* | *3%* | *4%* | *17%* |
|  | **6** | *4%* | *4%* | *1%* | *3%* | *3%* |
|  | **7** | *2%* | *2%* | *4%* | *2%* | *3%* |
| **S** | Total: | ***4%*** | ***6%*** | ***7%*** | ***8%*** | ***8%*** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **TOTAL:** | | ***10%*** | ***13%*** | ***17%*** | ***19%*** | ***20%*** |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **BXL III** |  | **2011-2012** | **2012-2013** | **2013-2014** | **2014-2015** | **2015-2016** |
| **N** | **1** | *23%* | *19%* | *28%* | *26%* | *12%* |
|  | **2** | *17%* | *22%* | *25%* | *23%* | *27%* |
| **N** | Total: | ***20%*** | ***21%*** | ***26%*** | ***25%*** | ***21%*** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **P** | **1** | *14%* | *22%* | *25%* | *20%* | *10%* |
|  | **2** | *4%* | *14%* | *19%* | *23%* | *15%* |
|  | **3** | *7%* | *6%* | *14%* | *8%* | *21%* |
|  | **4** | *4%* | *9%* | *8%* | *7%* | *9%* |
|  | **5** | *4%* | *4%* | *8%* | *6%* | *9%* |
| **P** | Total: | ***6%*** | ***10%*** | ***14%*** | ***13%*** | ***13%*** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **S** | **1** | *4%* | *4%* | *4%* | *4%* | *4%* |
|  | **2** | *4%* | *4%* | *3%* | *1%* | *1%* |
|  | **3** | *1%* | *3%* | *4%* | *3%* | *1%* |
|  | **4** | *1%* | *1%* | *3%* | *4%* | *3%* |
|  | **5** | *1%* | *1%* | *0%* | *5%* | *2%* |
|  | **6** | *3%* | *3%* | *1%* | *0%* | *5%* |
|  | **7** | *3%* | *2%* | *3%* | *1%* | *0%* |
| **S** | Total: | ***2%*** | ***2%*** | ***2%*** | ***3%*** | ***2%*** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **TOTAL:** | | ***5%*** | ***6%*** | ***8%*** | ***8%*** | ***8%*** |