



European Schools
Office of the Secretary-General

Human Resources Unit

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New Financing Agreement for Admission of Category II Pupils to the Brussels European Schools

Board of Governors

Meeting in Copenhagen on 12 – 14 April 2016

I. Introduction

Category II pupils are pupils covered by particular agreements or decisions, each involving specific rights and obligations for the pupils concerned.

In a written procedure¹ following the meeting in April 2013, the proposal to mandate the Secretary-General to negotiate new category II contracts did not find the necessary unanimous support of the Board of Governors. Nevertheless, the two delegations voting against the proposal indicated in their reply that they would abstain with respect to the request of the Foreign Ministry of the Kingdom of Belgium.

At its meeting in March 2016 the Secretary-General of the European Schools informed the members of the Budgetary Committee that the Federal Government of the Kingdom of Belgium has taken a positive decision concerning the creation of a fifth European School in Brussels.

Moreover, the Secretary-General of the European Schools informed the members of the Budgetary Committee about the fact that the Vice Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Belgium has renewed by letter of March 2016 (see Annex I) the request to give children of members of his staff access to the European Schools in Brussels as category 2 pupils.

II. Overview of the current situation

1. Existing category II contracts in Brussels

In Brussels, a category II agreement has been concluded firstly, with the Eurocontrol organisation. Children of its expatriate employees are thus entitled to automatic admission to the European Schools as from primary year 1 subject to payment of school fees; the agreement is valid for all the Brussels European Schools.

Secondly, category II agreements have also been signed with some ten companies, including Procter & Gamble and Solvay, the staff concerned regularly applying for their children's enrolment.

It should be noted that there are only a few applications for enrolment of category II pupils – apart from Eurocontrol – in Brussels. For information purposes, the following applications have been submitted over the past three years:

2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016
3	5	14

¹ Written Procedure 2013/14.

A few applications are sometimes withdrawn and some offers of places are refused should members of staff of these companies not come to Brussels. As a result, the final number of places accepted was respectively:

2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016
3	0	11

In accordance with the enrolment policy guidelines approved annually by the Board of Governors and pursuant to the provisions of the Policy on Enrolment in the Brussels European Schools, these applications are considered during the last phase of the enrolment session and after the applications for enrolment of category I pupils have been dealt with. These applications are accepted under the terms and conditions of the agreements concluded, one of the conditions being that a category II pupil's enrolment may not lead to division of a class.

In April 2013 the Board of Governors adopted new model agreements for category II contracts between the Secretary-General of the European Schools and the requesting party (see document 2013-02-D-16-en-2).

2. Request of the Vice Prime Minister for category II contracts in Brussels

The Office of the Secretary-General received already in November 2012 a letter of the Vice Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Belgium asking for possibilities to enrol the children of members of his staff in the Brussels European Schools during their stay in Belgium between two diplomatic posts abroad (normally three years).

This request has been renewed in the light of the confirmation of the creation of a fifth European School in Brussels.

This request should be examined in the light of the following points:

- at the beginning of the 2016-2017 school year in September 2016, the European School, Brussels I – Berkendael will provide additional space for new pupils (see overview concerning the estimated figures for all four European Schools in Brussels in Annex II);
- already in the written procedure 2013/14 the two delegations voting against a mandate indicated that they would abstain with respect to the request of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Belgium;
- the creation of a fifth European School in Brussels has been approved by the Belgian government in December 2015;
- since 2007, enrolments at the Brussels European Schools have been decided by the Central Enrolment Authority under the provisions of the Policy on Enrolment in the Brussels European Schools. Now, taking account of the current terms and conditions of the category II agreements (except for those of the agreement with

Eurocontrol), application of the Enrolment Policy is restricted to those terms and conditions.

Moreover, the limited number of pupils to be enrolled, the language sections concerned and the additional income (€ 9.937,44 per school year) generated under the regime of these contracts should be taken in consideration (see table below).

Name of the 'organisation'	Number of employees	Number of pupils to be enrolled in the 2016/2017 school year	Language sections	Additional amount of school fees per year
Belgian Foreign Ministry		20 ²	FR, NL and EN	€ 198.748,80

III. Proposal

The Board of Governors is asked to mandate the Secretary-General of the European Schools to negotiate a 'financing agreement' with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Belgium.

² It is estimated that every school year 20 new enrolments have to be envisaged, but the normal length of stay will be only three school years.

Annex I



ROYAUME DE BELGIQUE

Vice-Premier Ministre
Ministre des Affaires étrangères et européennes

UNITE SECRETARIAT GENERAL

Date 1.03.2016

N° enregistrement 013

A traiter par KK .

cc à :

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vos références

vos références

nos références

P&O 0.2/BLB/PER 08.01.03/01.06/2016/3366

date

Objet: Demande d'accès aux écoles européennes Implantées en Belgique

Monsieur le Secrétaire Général,

Cher Monsieur Kivinen,

Je souhaiterais de nouveau attirer votre attention sur le problème récurrent d'accès des enfants des membres du personnel des carrières extérieures belges, aux écoles européennes lors de leur réaffectation à l'administration centrale à Bruxelles. Ces enfants sont pour une durée de trois ou quatre ans scolarisés en Belgique.

Pour certains d'entre eux il est très important d'assurer une continuité de leurs études dans un environnement académique d'une approche similaire à ce qu'ils ont vécu auparavant. Il ne s'agit pas seulement de la langue de l'éducation mais aussi du système pédagogique et pour des enfants qui ont vécu la plus grande partie de leur vie d'étudiant dans un environnement international, le changement devient trop difficile.

L'accès à votre réseau scolaire pourrait être une solution pour certains de ces élèves et je vous remercie de prendre cela en considération. La priorité irait à ceux qui, du fait du plan de carrière de leurs parents, sont amenés à terminer leurs humanités supérieures en Belgique. Je songe ici à un quota d'inscription d'environ 20 étudiants par an et ceci surtout en section française, néerlandaise et anglaise.

Je vous serais reconnaissant de bien vouloir envisager la possibilité de conclure un accord entre le Conseil Supérieur et le SPF AE afin de pourvoir accueillir ces élèves dans la catégorie 2.

Je vous prie de croire, Monsieur le Secrétaire général, en l'assurance de ma considération distinguée.

Didier REYNDERS
Vice Premier Ministre
Ministre des Affaires Etrangères

Annex II

Estimation for the 2016/17 school year

	Capacity	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	ESTIMATION 2016-2017
EEB1	3.100	3.040	3.086	3.277	3.397	3.400
EEB2	2.850	3.144	3.088	2.961	3.003	3.020
EEB3	2.650	2.892	2.875	2.908	2.998	3.010
EEB4	2.800	1.530	1.928	2.260	2.492	2.750
BERK	1.000					260
TOTAL		10.606	10.977	11.406	11.890	12.440