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Original.

Request from the EATC for admission of children of its staff as category I

Board of Governors of European Schools

Meeting on 15-17 April 2020

Request from the EATC for admission of children of its staff as category I

I. INTRODUCTION

On 12 March 2010, the Secretary-General of the European Schools received the attached letter from the European Air Transport Command (EATC) requesting access to the European Schools as category I pupils for children of the staff of this organisation.

In April 2010 The Board of Governors of the European Schools did not accede to the request for admission of children of the staff of EATC to the European schools in category I. (see: 2010-D-114-en-1)

On 27 November 2019 and 24 January 2020, the Secretary General received two official letters, on behalf of the commander of the EATC, in order to reopen the issue of the access of the children of their staff as Category I to ESMOL. (Annexes 1 and 2)

In parallel with the letter from the EATC, on 17 January 2020 the Secretary General received a letter from the European Defence Agency attesting that the European Air Transport Command has become an indispensable partner for the European Defence Agency and in a wider sense in support of the development of the EU defence capabilities and the Common Security and Defence policy as a whole. (Annex 3)

The EATC is an intergovernmental organisation created with the aim of increasing military cooperation in Europe by contributing to the EU's common foreign and security policy (CFSP). The Declaration of EATC Establishment was initially signed by four Member States (Belgium, France, Germany and the Netherlands). Today the number of European Union member states participating is a total of seven. (Belgium, France, Germany, Netherlands, Luxembourg, Spain and Italy). The staff of the EATC are assigned to the organisation by each Member State concerned.

II. Justification of the request

The EATC is based in Eindhoven in the Netherlands, approximately 50 kms from the European School of Mol. This particular school is the only one in which the EATC staff would require admission for their children as Category I. Attending ES Mol would make the transition for the pupils between their national education system and their temporary base in the Netherlands, as well as back upon return to their home country, smooth and unobstructed, a continuation without any serious setbacks. It would especially be advantageous for those pupils who, without being enrolled to the European School of Mol as category 1 students, would have no opportunity to continue studying their mother tongue which option, on the other hand, they would be provided with in ES Mol as SWALS.

As regards its status, the EATC is an intergovernmental organisation composed of EU Member States whose staff do not come into category I for the purposes of their children's admission to the European Schools, unless they are the subject of a specific decision of the Board of Governors, as provided for in the Digest of Decisions of the Board of Governors (2014-02-D-14-en-3): Chapter XII (Rules governing admission to the European Schools) point B.1.g.:

Staff of any Community organisation set up by an act of the Community Institutions and staff in the service of other organisations recognised by the Board of Governors

As far as the budgetary impact is concerned, EATC estimates that about 20 Italian and 20 French students (including the 12 pupils already enrolled as category 3) could register in the ES Mol in case CAT1 access is granted. These figures are difficult to assess as there is a turnover of 30% every year in the personnel. EATC are, on the other hand, convinced that providing European schooling with a smooth transition possibility would have a huge impact on the potential newcomers' positive decision.

The current numbers in the Francophone section of the school would allow the admission of these pupils without the necessity of class divisions. The Italian pupils would be enrolled in one of the 2 vehicular language sections as SWALS.

III. OPINION OF THE BUDGETARY COMMITTEE

The Budgetary Committee sent forward to the Board of Governors the reservations of the EC, DE, FR, NL and IT, which drew attention to the possibility for the ES, Mol of offering Category III enrolment.



ANNEXES

EUROPEAN AIR TRANSPORT COMMAND



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YOUR MESSAGE

YOUR POC

OUR REF

2019/0133/CMDG/PSD/PLA/aaw

OUR POC

Col Munsch

EINDHOVEN

27 November 2019

EATC Category 1 ESMOL

Dear Mr Marcheggiano,

This letter, also addressed to the European School of Mol (ESMOL), is meant as a first approach, in order to re-open the issue of the Category 1 access to ESMOL. As you are aware, the EATC [unsuccessfully] applied for such a recognition in the past, but I believe that considering how some situations have evolved, the request should be reconsidered. This letter does not intend to elaborate much on the elements that support this request, those elements will follow in the next iteration. However, I think it is necessary to give you a few reasons why I consider Category 1 access to ESMOL for the children of EATC personnel of the utmost importance.

Also, I would like to request some information from you that enables me to prepare the basis for a successful new attempt.

First of all, I would like to highlight that our goal is to achieve the Category 1 recognition for the school year 2020-2021, and that we only have an interest in the ESMOL since this particular school is the only one my staff would send their children to. Having said this, I would like to spend a few words on the main reason why my staff would like to benefit from a more affordable access to ESMOL.

Certainly, I should stress the first and foremost reason that is, today the EATC, entirely composed of EU nations, is working for the EU much more and with more nations than in the past. But what I am concerned about right now is that the fact that current educational programs for children are not attractive from a financial perspective, might really affect the EATC as an organisation. In fact, it might become more difficult in the near future to get the right qualified people, a need that will remain a constant for us. And this could consequently become detrimental to the future of EATC as a successful story in Europe.

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It is also worth mentioning that several parents from my staff would consider to enrol their children at the ES. In fact, not only the ES educational program connects in a much better way to those of some of our nations, but the alternative, that is the International Baccalaureate is not recognised in all European nations (this is especially true for France). In spite of this, many parents have to choose the ISE (International School of Eindhoven), much closer in distance (laying a very similar financial burden).

Unfortunately, I must say, also the option of applying for the Category 2 access does not provide a solution. Since the personnel related costs are borne by each single nation in accordance with their national regulations, the EATC is not mandated to run such negotiations, therefore Category 2 access is not an option.

To conclude, and as previously anticipated, in order for me to try to get in touch with the persons who may have a key role in the assessment and the final evaluation of a new request from the EATC to have the Category 1 access to the ESMOL, I kindly ask you to provide me with the list of names and contact points of the members of the ES Board of Governors, and of the three EU Commission representatives to the same Board.

I also would like to inform you that, as for the way ahead, following this letter it would be my intent to send the official request to reapply for Cat. 1 access to ESMOL at the beginning of the new year. The request will contain more details about the supporting motivation and hopefully some additional backup from EU and National authorities.

Yours faithfully,

Major General L. Marboeuf
Commander EATC



CHIEF EXECUTIVE

EATC	
EATC ref. nr.	2020/5002 IE-ATC
Date	20 JAN. 2020
CMDG	COM, DROM
PSD	HPSD
OPSD	
FUND	

CMDG,
COM/DROM

Major General Laurent Marboeuf
Commander EATC
Postbox 90102
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EDA202001088/TT/MR

17 January 2020

Cher Laurent,

I have received your letter dated 9 January 2020, in which you were asking for an active support in relation to your objective to obtain more favorable conditions for EATC families who are putting their children in the European School of Mol.

Given the importance of the Agency's cooperation with EATC over the years in support of the EDA mission, I'm glad to be able to respond positively to this request. Please find attached a letter of support testifying to the role EATC plays in support of EU Defence efforts.

Bien à toi

Yours sincerely,

Jorge Domecq

Annex 1: Letter of support



CHIEF EXECUTIVE

17/01/2020

To whom it may concern

In less than 10 years the European Air Transport Command (EATC) has become a key actor at European level to jointly operate strategic enablers on behalf of its seven member nations in the area of air transport, air-to-air refueling and aero-medical evacuation capabilities. As a European operational command but also as a driver for increased cooperation between EU Member States, the EATC is directly supporting the European Union's Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), by making a marked contribution to the EU Defence capability landscape. In that sense, it is also supporting the Union's objective to develop its strategic autonomy.

It is in this context that the European Defence Agency (EDA), an intergovernmental Agency of the Council of the EU whose mission is to support the Council and the Member States in their effort to improve the Union's defence capabilities and to sustain the CSDP, has developed over the years strong ties with the EATC.

This cooperation has allowed the EDA and all EU Member States to directly benefit from the extensive operational expertise of the EATC, including as regards the development of harmonized standards and requirements, to support the development of the Member States defence capabilities. The level of cooperation between our two entities is reflected in our bilateral cooperation framework, as well as in a trilateral framework together with OCCAR aiming at optimizing and developing together the A400M capability, for the benefit of our respective members.

Overall, I can attest that the European Air Transport Command has become an indispensable partner for the European Defence Agency, but also in a wider sense in support of the development of EU defence capabilities and the Common Security and Defence policy as a whole.

Yours sincerely,

Jorge Domecq

EUROPEAN AIR TRANSPORT COMMAND



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YOUR MESSAGE

YOUR POC

OUR REF

2020/EATC/0011/CMDG/PSD/CMD/PLA/jfr

OUR POC

Col S. Munsch

EINDHOVEN

24 January 2020

Request Category I ESMOL

Dear Mr Marcheggiano,

At the behest of the staff at the European Air Transport Command (EATC) and according to my personal assessment, I herewith would like to officially request Category I access to the European School in Mol (ESMOL) in Belgium. As you are aware, the EATC already applied for Category I in the past, unfortunately with an unfavourable outcome. However, I believe that circumstances today have evolved in such a manner that our request is eligible for renewal.

The EATC was established in 2010 as a multinational organisation of four European nations (Belgium, France, Germany and the Netherlands). Within a few years, other European nations, Luxembourg, Spain and Italy also decided to join the EATC bringing the European participating nations to a total of seven.

The EATC is an operational command with over sixty percent of the European military air transport assets under control and command of the EATC. Despite the fact that these seven EATC nations are all EU nations, the EATC is extraneous to the EU structure. Nevertheless, and as defined in the Treaty of Lisbon in 2014, the EATC is most definitely considered as an instrumental part of the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), which is also mentioned in the EATC Declaration of Establishment.

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The very fact that, over the years and on numerous occasions, the EU Council often refers to the EATC as a valuable actor in the support of CSDP-supporting capabilities, clearly demonstrates the growing extent the EATC has involved in EU defence matters. Even more so, the EATC is assessed to be an answer to the political will of the EU Member States within the EU Security Strategy. The attached letter from the Chief Executive at the European Defence Agency, Mr Domecq, fully endorses this statement. In practical terms, the EATC directly cooperates with a number of EU institutions, such as the European Union Military Staff (EUMS) within the European External Action Service, with whom the EATC has signed a Letter of Intent and also developed a standard operating procedure in the field of aeromedical evacuation with the EATC as a centre of expertise. As such, the EATC is directly linked to the EUMS headquarters in the medical support of patients.

And long before, the EATC was actively engaged in the delivery of co-operative and contingency planning for EU-involved nations in Afghanistan, Africa and the Middle East. As a matter of fact, the EATC also carried out a number of combined missions of non-combatant evacuation operations of EU citizens.

More commonly, as the sole entity capable of offering the EU and the EU nations the capacity to commit abroad and to sustain by air committed capacities, the EATC plays a major part in the European Air Transport Fleet program and initiatives under the umbrella of the EDA. In recent years, the EATC has been providing expert support in countless domains of air mobility (i.e. air transport, air-to-air refuelling and aeromedical evacuation). Our intense cooperation with the EDA and OCCAR (Organisation for Joint-Armament Co-operation) in the shape of a trilateral agreement and a cooperation framework agreement the EATC co-signed in 2018, is a clear testimony of the close ties that the EATC has with both these organisations. The EATC also coordinates with the EU Military Planning and Conduct Capability (MPCC) who, just like the EATC, enhances the capacity of the EU by responding faster and more efficiently to a conflict or crisis situation, where EU troops are deployed.

In light of the numerous cooperation initiatives the EATC has on record or actively is engaged in, I truly believe that the close liaison between the EATC and the European Union is solid, thus rendering our renewed request to obtain Category I at ESMOL justified. Obviously, there are other practical reasons why the EATC staff would benefit from Category I at ESMOL. As I described in my previous letter (2019/0133/CMDG/PSD/PLA/aaw, 27/11/2019), not only the financial factor plays an important role but also the didactic aspect is a decisive factor the ESMOL is the most attractive to the school-age children of the EATC staff from an educational point of view.

The fact that potential good candidates might be discouraged from applying for a posting at the EATC is becoming a growing concern and may evolve into an operational issue to the EATC. In fact, with a growing number of activities, also in support of EU entities, this situation could become detrimental and jeopardize the future of the EATC success story in Europe.

In conclusion, considering our close ties with the European Union, the benefits for the EATC staff, if they were granted Category I at ESMOL, would be substantial. Not only would education be more affordable but also the transition between ESMOL and the national educational institution upon return to their native country would be seamless and continued without any setbacks.

For this reason, Mr Secretary General, I would be obliged if you were to re-evaluate the recognition of the EATC for Category I at the ESMOL and discuss at your earliest convenience.

Warm regards .



Major General Laurent Marboeuf
Commander EATC

annex: copy letter CE EDA, Mr Domecq