**Annex to document 2020-03-D-47-en-1: Situation of the European Schools in Brussels – temporary site in Evere:**

Email correspondence

From: Sanita Deslandes

Sent: **07 April 2020** 15:56

To: OSG SECRETARY GENERAL (OSG)

Cc: ARAJA Gunta ; SILVA-MENDES Marta

Subject: **Temporary site of the European Schools in Evere and the Latvian section**

Dear Secretary-General,

Following the letter that you received on 1 April 2020 from Ms Gunta Arāja, the Head of the Latvian Delegation to the European Schools, which I was copied on, I would like to use this opportunity and convey my full support to the position expressed by the Latvian Delegation.

The establishment of the Latvian section at the European School Brussels Berkendael in 2017 was sufficiently complex and challenging for the European Schools, Latvian families and the teachers’ community alike, including the failure to open it in 2016, to hamper the successful developments that have taken place during the last few years. In the light of the decisions to be taken concerning the establishment of the temporary site in Evere, I would very much urge you to consider the feasibility, as well as pedagogical and concrete disruptions affecting young children and their families, should any transfer of the Latvian section away from Berkendael be considered before the permanent European School Brussels V opens its doors. Let me also stress the importance of clear and straightforward communication concerning the future of the Latvian section to dissipate the growing concerns about the lack of predictability among the Latvian community in Brussels.

The Latvian section has borne the full brunt of establishing itself on a temporary site and it would be entirely inappropriate to relocate it only four years into its existence without a permanent solution in sight. Any relocation could only be considered in the context of a lasting and consolidated solution as regards the hosting of the Latvian section at a single site of the European Schools throughout all cycles leading up to the European baccalaureat, including the future establishment of a Latvian secondary section.

Being fully aware of the huge challenges you are facing with regard to the shortage of space and management of the European Schools in Brussels, I trust that the most optimal solution will be agreed to accommodate the opening of the temporary site of the European Schools in Evere without putting the interests and legitimate expectations of the Latvian section at risk.

Sincerely Yours,

Sanita Pavluta-Deslandes

Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Latvia to the EU