



**Joint Research Centre (JRC) JRC CLP's of Geel - Ispra-Seville – Karlsruhe - Petten
Group Research of the Central Staff Committee (CCP)**

Ispra, 06 of June 13

Note to the attention of

Mr M. Šefčovič, Vice President of the European Commission
Ms Maire Geoghegan-Quinn, Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science
Ms I. Souka, Director General of DG Human Resources
Mr D. Ristori, Director General of DG Joint Research Centres
Mr M U. Moricca, Director of the Directorate C – HR Core Process
Mr K. Kivinen, Secretary General of the European Schools

Subject: UK position on the seconded teachers

Dear Sirs,

You are certainly aware of the unilateral position adopted by the UK Government concerning the seconded teachers to the European Schools (ES). According to that approach, UK seconded teachers to the European schools will decrease from 217 to 117 by the non-replacement of teachers who finish their mandate.

According to the 1994 Convention defining the Statute of the European schools (Art. 12, 4a) it is under the responsibility of the Board of Governors to determine – on the basis of a proposal of the Board of Inspectors – the teaching staff requirements as well as to ensure a fair allocation of posts among EU Member States.

Since the formal adoption of the Convention (1994), the needs of the European schools have been satisfactorily addressed by a sufficient number of UK seconded teachers. The teaching requirements were identified by the European schools themselves, establishing a *de facto* principle that the contribution of seconded teachers had to meet the number of registered students.

In 2009, the Reform of the European Schools established a number of key aspects. As starting point an *indicative reference* of seconded teachers to be determined for each member state on the basis of the percentage of the national pupils has been introduced. It also established the possibility to adopt in a *limited number of cases*, non-native speaker teachers and consequently the need to ensure robust *pre-recruitment quality control*.

It was clear from the start that such changes would have required the establishment of detailed rules by the Board of Governors to ensure a full and smooth implementation.

However, nothing was decided by the Board of Governors in this regard.

Therefore it is clear that the UK Government has taken a unilateral decision in absence of the expected implementing rules which should have been adopted further to the 2009 Reform.

In our view the first victims of the UK political position will be the student of the European Schools. By applying the decision *sensu stricto*, in fact, not all non-UK pupils that request it could even be registered in the English language sections – as this would not be compatible with the proportionality principle. In addition, also the teaching of several subject matters – now run in English as L2 (second language) – will be put at risk.

The immediate consequence of the UK decision is that the resulting shortage of teachers will have to be filled with locally recruited teachers.

This might appear to be a solution; however, it will impact on Schools budgets that will have to be increased to take into account this added burden. In addition, a formal, systematic verification of the quality of the teachers themselves must be ensured. These two immediate consequences open a number of uncertainties.

An alternative solution could be that those L2 teachers may be replaced by staff provided by the host countries, who may or not be able to teach in English.

In our view both of these possible scenarios are not very encouraging.

In particular, in case of local recruitment of teachers, the financial burden will fall on the shoulders of the EU Commission or, in case of teachers seconded by the host countries, on the shoulders of the host countries themselves.

However, the Court of Justice has expressed its opinion on the first option (See *Affaire C-6/89*). In that case a basic principle was established that a Member State is not allowed to take any decision whose implementation would result in an increase of the European Commission budget.

The Local Staff Committees of the Joint Research Centres express their concern for the impact of the UK government decision on the European Schools linked to the JRC, which adds upon a situation of progressive erosion of the European School system and of the pedagogical and educational offer needed to the staff of the JRC sites. Therefore, we are addressing this letter to you in order to ask your full support in defence of the European Schools as fundamental elements for maintaining the attractiveness of the JRC to current and future employees.

In this context, it is clear that the UK political decision has an immediate negative impact on the possibility to attract high quality staff, as it may put at risk the high quality service which has been ensured so far.

In addition, the present UK decision plays against the basic principles of the European Schools, as recently recalled by Mr K. Kivinen at the launch of the MEET initiative: *"European Schools were created 60 years ago based on Jean Monnet's vision of a united Europe with pupils of different nationalities being educated side by side from an early age. All European children deserve the same educational opportunities"*.

We wonder how, on the basis of such a decision, the students can in fact benefit from the very same educational opportunities.

In conclusion, the Local Staff Committees of Ispra & Seville, Geel, Karlsruhe and Petten together with the ES parents association ask you to urgently take action in support of the European Schools considering the described negative impacts which will be caused by the UK decision. We ask you to take all possible measures to counter the risk that the decision of a single member state could affect the quality of education of the vast majority of pupils, and as a consequence, severely damage the attractiveness as an employer of the JRC.

Signed,

Denis BAUDOT President Local Staff Committee, JRC Karlsruhe

Monica ERMOLLI President Local Staff Committee, JRC Ispra-Seville

Giustino MANNA President Local Staff Committee, JRC Petten

Charles NAZARETH President Local Staff Committee, JRC Geel

Stéphane CORDEIL President of Parents Association of ES Varese

Debjani BASU President of Parents Association of Karlsruhe

Gertrud LÖVESTAM President of Parents Association European School Mol

Copy: Ms P. Di Pietrogiacono

Ms D. Mormille – President of LSC Brussels

Mr R. Klar - President of LSC Luxemburg

Mr C. Sebastiani – President of CSC Brussels

From: KIVINEN Kari
Sent: Friday, June 07, 2013 10:59 AM
To: JRC CLP ISPRA
Cc: Marcheggiano Giancarlo
Subject: RE: UK position on the seconded teachers

Dear Mrs Ermolli,

I have received your letter and I will diffuse it to the members of the future Troika meeting.

Based on the outcome of the Education Council, the Belgian European School Presidency has decided to organize an enlarged Troika meeting on 24 June to plan and prepare the future cost sharing discussion. The Troika will be reinforced by the Irish EU presidency, as well as by the representation of the future Lithuanian EU presidency and the Commission, in order to guarantee the smooth and effective development of the matter.

The Troika will most probably propose that an extraordinary Board of Governors' meeting be conceived on Monday 23 September, to prepare a cost sharing proposal for the Ministerial meeting.

At present, it seems that an extraordinary Board of Governors' meeting will be organized in the margins of the Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council meeting in November.

Best wishes,

Kari Kivinen
Secretary-General of the European Schools