

## **PA ES Alicante position in connection with the school fees increase:**

We radically consider unacceptable any fees increase approach to Cat. III either directly or indirectly (via decreasing family reductions on second and third child) and for the following reasons:

The ESs are public schools that are financed with public funds (contribution of the Commission and contributions from Member States) and private funds (contributions from companies or international organizations students in Cat. II, and fees paid by parents of students in Cat. III).

The parents of cat. III pupils in Alicante are European citizens and as such, we contribute with our taxes to support ES with public funds that finance them with resources coming from taxation of EU citizens.

Parents of cat. III pupils in Alicante contribute to the ES twice: once with our taxes (through which finance our country and therefore contribute to the European Union) and again with the fee rates we pay for the enrollment of our children.

In regards of ES Alicante, local government contribute to its operation with taxes of Spanish citizens, and especially with the very high taxes paid in our region, the Comunidad Valenciana has borne the costs of establishment (land, construction and infrastructure provision) of the ES Alicante.

The proposed fees hike is aggravating the situation of discrimination against cat. III that currently exists: the cat. I European citizens are entitled to a free European public education and cat. III European citizens who contribute with their taxes to the school existence and the services, and yet are not entitled or have no rights to free European education.

Given the above statements to the argument to raise fees (the fees paid by students of cat. III does not cover the cost of service) is a fallacy: the parents of cat. III pupils contribute to the cost of service not only with the fees paid but also with our taxes that we pay to the local Comunidad Autonoma and to the Spanish government.

The existence of the cat. III pupils does not increase cost in the ES system. The schools have fixed costs for teachers, administrative staff and services: ... etc. There are independent of the amount or number of pupils. In this case financial transfers made by cat. III parents, are a benefit to any ES.

The existence of the cat. III pupils for peripheral ESs' is a benefit: The sustainability of ES such as Alicante, in which cat. III pupils in the EN, FR and GER section ensure the viability of the existence of language sections, providing the number of pupils needed. Without it, there is a high risk to jeopardized the very existence of any section.

We do not accept a negotiated fees hike that supports a modification of the status quo, although current claims recess.

For these reasons, we consider convenient to express our outrage to any fees hike approach that is redundant in time, is inadmissible in the rate review periods that are agreed with parents at the time of admission of students , this approach involves a flagrant breach of the principles of legal security and disloyalty to parents who choose a long-term educational commitment taking into consideration not only the ES educational model but also its economic cost: nobody

embarks on a educational project which cost cannot or will not be able to assume. Any fees increase will have a negative impact and an economic cost unaffordable for any average income level in Alicante.

Finally ask Interparents to conduct a study on legal grounds to raise a claim against the Secretary General office and the ES system based on discrimination, infringement of the principle of European citizen equality and legal security.

Dear Ana,

In response to PA BXL II and PA BXL III joint letter regarding Cat. III pupils fees, the parents association of Alicante (AMPA) wish to draw your attention on the following:

A. The document clearly defines a before and an after, so far no PA had ever before expressed an opinion of this kind.

B. The authors ignore in their text the historical fundamentals on which the European Schools have exist and operate since its creation.

C. Regarding the comment about there is no reason to subsidize private education of non-EU officials, we ask ourselves if Cat. III is getting a subsidized private education? Are the European Schools private for Cat. III but then public for Cat.I?

D. Why keep trying to ignore the marginal cost concept? It has been explained endlessly in texts produced by Interparents in the last nine years.

E. The text is unsupportive and clearly regressive in its conception of the ES outside BXL and is against the principles of solidarity, the main foundation of the European Union.

F. It has a misleading understanding, we all parents know the role of the Commission and all Member States in providing schools' infrastructure and teachers for all ES.

G. It tries to manipulate the concept of tax benefits. Anyone outside BXL could take this as a declaration of outright war. We fear an eminent ban on Cat. III pupils from the current Type I ES initially created for EU officials only, with reserved rights access to any ES. For those ES outside BXL, the tendency will be to close down or to change into ES Cat.II.

PA ES Alicante, do not accept a working document that does not express in written the total and absolute support to all Cat. III. parents.

Interparents should not and cannot defend any thesis that goes against the interests of the parents it represents. If there is any position that intents to attack the interests of any member of Interparents, it must be addressed in another forum or association. Interparents is not to be used as an instrument of conflict between Cat.I and Cat.III.