



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on Budgets

2011/2036(INI)

16.6.2011

OPINION

of the Committee on Budgets

for the Committee on Culture and Education

on the European Schools' system
(2011/2036(INI))

Rapporteur for the opinion: Damien Abad

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Budgets calls on the Committee on Culture and Education, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

- A. whereas the European Schools are financed by contributions from the Member States, amounting to 21 % of the schools' total budget, and a balancing contribution from the European Union, which in 2010 comprised around 58 % of the total provided for under Title 26 01 51,
- B. whereas a special levy on the salaries of officials was introduced in 2004 for purposes, inter alia, of financing the European Schools,
- C. whereas the main aim of the 2009 reform of the European Schools was to open them up to a wider and more diverse intake, while at the same time ensuring the system's long-term viability,
- D. whereas the increase in the number of European School pupils is a direct consequence of the EU institutions' post-2004 recruitment policy, which resulted in employing staff below the age of 30; in the meantime these young officials have established families and subsequently enrolled their children in European Schools,
 1. Reaffirms that the European Schools must be financed on a sound and adequate basis so that the commitments made in the Convention and in the Staff Regulations of Officials and Conditions of Employment of Other Servants of the European Union can be fulfilled and the quality of the education provided, as well as equal and equivalent teaching conditions for children of all language communities in the European Schools, can be guaranteed. Notes, in this regard, the recent petition by the parents' and teachers' associations of the Brussels European Schools pointing out the serious threats posed by the proposed cuts to the quality of education and the proper functioning of the European Schools and therefore opposing any budget cuts;
 2. Considers that, in the short term, the European Union's commitments should be honoured, while, at the same time, account should be taken of the prevailing climate of budgetary restrictions at both Union and Member State level; notes that the 2012 draft budget provides for a 1.7 % increase in funding for the European Schools, at a time when budgetary difficulties have led the Commission to propose a freeze on its own administrative expenditure and a 1.3 % increase in administrative expenditure for the European institutions generally; undertakes to scrutinise the appropriations on the budget lines in question in order for all budgetary needs to be met;
 3. Emphasises the long-term importance of making the European Union's financial contribution more transparent and doing more to guarantee openness and diversity in the schools, while also introducing a sustainable financing system; calls on the Commission, in this context, to specify for which purposes the special levy has been used; asks the Commission to submit to it an update on implementation of the 2009 reform and on the financing requirements for the coming years, especially in respect of the buildings policy;

4. Notes that the method of financing the European Schools can create problems for some Member States whose financial contribution through the secondment of teachers is disproportionate to the number of students enrolled from that Member State; considers it necessary, therefore, to review the way in which the schools are financed and in which teachers are recruited;
5. Takes the view that giving each of the European Schools a greater degree of budgetary autonomy may be an effective way of improving the management of the resources allocated to them; stresses that this must only be implemented following an assessment by the Commission to ensure that a greater degree of autonomy would benefit the schools.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	15.6.2011
Result of final vote	+: 34 -: 1 0: 1
Members present for the final vote	Damien Abad, Alexander Alvaro, Marta Andreasen, Francesca Balzani, Reimer Böge, Lajos Bokros, Isabelle Durant, James Elles, Göran Färm, José Manuel Fernandes, Eider Gardiazábal Rubial, Salvador Garriga Polledo, Jens Geier, Ivars Godmanis, Estelle Grelier, Jutta Haug, Monika Hohlmeier, Sidonia Elżbieta Jędrzejewska, Anne E. Jensen, Sergej Kozlík, Jan Kozłowski, Alain Lamassoure, Giovanni La Via, Vladimír Maňka, Barbara Matera, Claudio Morganti, Nadezhda Neynsky, Miguel Portas, László Surján, Helga Trüpel, Angelika Werthmann, Jacek Włosowicz
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Frédéric Daerden, Edit Herczog, Jan Mulder, María Muñoz De Urquiza