



Schola Europaea

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Statement of the Board of Governors on the situation of the European Schools in Brussels

Board of Governors of the European Schools

Meeting from 3 to 5 December 2019 – Brussels

Statement of the Board of Governors on the situation of the European Schools in Brussels

The Secretary-General of the European Schools brought to the attention of the Board of Governors, at its meeting held in Brussels on 3-5 December, the extremely critical situation under which the European Schools in Brussels are operating. The four main sites (European Schools, Brussels 1 - Uccle, Brussels 2 - Woluwé, Brussels 3 - Ixelles and Brussels 4 - Laeken) operate above their capacity, three of them having done so for several years now.

The temporary Berkendael site, which has been made available pending delivery of the fifth school, is likely to reach its maximum capacity during the enrolment session for the 2020-2021 school year.

The situation is illustrated in the annex, in which the past, the current and the projected school population is shown. The projected population has been calculated according to the growth recorded over recent years. Past projections have never been overestimates.

In 2010 the Board of Governors unanimously adopted, with the Kingdom of Belgium voting in favour, the decision to request a fifth school in Brussels.

In 2015, the Council of Ministers of the Belgian Federal Government undertook to make a fifth school available to the European Schools, with a nominal capacity of 2500 pupils, as from September 2019.

In October 2018, the Council of Ministers decided on the location of the fifth school.

Since that date, despite the repeated requests made by the Secretary-General and supported by the European Commission, and also at the highest political level, Belgium's political authorities have issued no further information on the subject.

The Board of Governors of the European Schools:

deeply regrets the situation

draws attention to the potential risks to the safety, security and well-being of the pupils, staff and school community as a whole that the overcrowding generates, and

requests an immediate response and urgent intervention by the relevant Belgian authorities, in line with the obligations stipulated in the Convention.

The Board of Governors also requests that:

the additional capacity required to manage the steady and continuous increase in the school population in a safe and healthy environment should be made available as from the 2020-2021 school year, pending delivery of the fifth school in Brussels

ANNEX

School year	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020
Pupil Population	10,606	10,977	11,406	11,885	12,309	12,691	12,958	13,430
Increase	321	371	429	479	424	382	267	472
%	3.12%	3.50%	3.91%	4.20%	3.57%	3.10%	2.10%	3.64%

	Pupil numbers 2012	Pupil numbers 2013	Pupil numbers 2014	Pupil numbers 2015	Pupil numbers 2016	Pupil numbers 2017	Pupil numbers 2018	Pupil numbers 2019	Theoretical capacity
EEB1-UCC	3,040	3,086	3,277	3,394	3,344	3,421	3,390	3,349	3 100
EEB1-BK	-	-	-	-	165	323	559	730	1 000
EEB2	3,144	3,088	2,961	2,998	3,056	3,101	3,075	3,175	2 850
EEB3	2,892	2,875	2,908	2,995	3,041	3,068	3,099	3,202	2 650
EEB4	1,530	1,928	2,260	2,498	2,703	2,778	2,835	2,974	2 800
Total	10,606	10,977	11,406	11,885	12,309	12,691	12,958	13,430	12 400

Development by + 400 pupils per year with temporary site for 1500 pupils available in 2021

