



EUROPASKOLEN	EUROPÄISCHE SCHULE
ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΟ ΣΧΟΛΕΙΟ	EUROPEAN SCHOOL
ESCUELA EUROPEA	ECOLE EUROPEENNE
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ESCOLA EUROPEIA	EUROOPPA-KOULU
EUROPASKOLAN	

Le Directeur

BG/JB/

1180 BRUXELLES/BRUSSEL, 11/07/2022

Dear Mrs Papa,

We thank you for your letter expressing several concerns.

First of all, we would like to specify that in the project of opening the Opstal entrance, the safety of our school population is the determining factor for decisions made and to be made in the near future. With this pilot project we are following a written safety recommendation from a professional advisory body, VIAS, that we cannot ignore. Vias is invited back in September to do an assessment, and again we will at that moment follow the official safety advice Vias will issue. All remarks concerning safety made by parents and other stakeholders will be presented to Vias to take into account.

In relation to several points in your letter, we would like however to comment on the following points:

- In several paragraphs of your communication the remark is made that the project is not supported by Vias. A separate study was made by Vias before starting the pilot project. The study was ordered because with the entrance of Vert Chasseur serious security issues for our population were identified.

Please find the Vias study and its conclusions on opening the Opstal entrance in addendum. We have also included some pictures of safety issues on Vert Chasseur in the morning and the evening that might have been left unnoticed by parents.

- In your communication the remark is made that there was no real assessment. We do not agree with this point of view. The pilot project aimed at assessing in a "live situation" possible problems related to the opening of Opstal. Every morning members of the Management, technical team and our Safety and Security officer were present during the "rush hour" to identify possible problems.

- The remarks of parents on the subject of safety of the population are taken into account, but in no circumstance overrule the official safety advice we get from Vias. For this reason organizing an extraordinary safety and security meeting would have been preliminary and creating false expectations of cancelling the project based on parents remarks.

- It is correct that when the Region and Commune in one of the meetings proposed to reserve kiss-and-drive places on the Chaussee de Waterloo we immediately agreed. Aside from opening the Opstal

entrance we consider the kiss-and drive places as an increase in safety for parents dropping of their kids at that side of the school.

- In your communication the conclusion is drawn that the new situation has led to more dangerous situations and more traffic on the Chaussee the Waterloo. Because of the very complex traffic situation in this neighborhood, that we have discussed over many meetings with the Mair of Uccle, traffic experts of the commune and region and police, we choose to leave the conclusions of the before-after traffic situation of Vert Chasseur to a professional organization like Vias instead of drawing quick conclusions. We are however strongly hoping, as is the commune and the region, that this solution leads to a safer and better traffic situation for the population.

- The safety situation of the drop-off of busses that is described in the first part of the Vias study is indeed also something to tackle. We are working with the Commune and the Region to improve that traffic situation also.

- The remark on the of trucks delivering goods to the Carrefour and waste pick-up trucks of the parents is a very valid one and was also identified by us. We are in contact and have meetings planned with Regional Carrefour management and the Commune in order to have no deliveries during the rush hour. The demand to the commune has been done to make Opstal a "school street". This implies that no waste trucks (or cars) can enter that street during rush hours ensuring the safety of our students.

- The remark has been made that there is a "risk for encountering strangers" There have been supervisors in the street during the pilot project in the rush hour and this would remain unchanged in the future. We also feel that due to the constant pedestrian traffic the street is a safer environment than before.

- Finally we would like to draw your attention that parents can still drop off the kids at exactly the same streets as before. When they drop them off at Vert Chasseur there is a sidewalk taking them to Opstal without having to cross the street. With this in mind we do not see how the school could be held responsible for students crossing Chaussee de Waterloo or any accidents that happen at that location. There are plenty of other options available to do a safe drop-off of the kids.

We would like to stretch out once again that only the safety of the school population is at the forefront of the changes we are investigating before implementation, and we are assisted by a professional organisation with the most expertise in the market on the subject of safety and traffic. All remarks from all stakeholders concerning safety will be taken into account.

We will continue to communicate in an open and transparent manner about the further course of this project.

Kind regards,



Jan Beliën

Deputy Director Finance and Administration EEB1

Cc: Mr Goggins, Mrs Künster, Mrs Cahjen