



European Schools

Office of the Secretary-General

2009-LD-247 RCH/kb  
Brussels, 24 July 2009

**FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
OF THE EUROPEAN SCHOOLS**

Dear Sir,  
Dear Madam,

At the request of the President of Interparents, Mr Wilkinson, I enclose for your attention an e-mail and a letter concerning the composition of and the voting rules on the Schools' Administrative Boards, as approved by the Board of Governors at its April 2009 meeting as part of the reform of the European Schools system.

The parents dispute the decision of the Board of Governors, which they consider to be at variance with the provisions of Article 19 of the Convention.

I would point out first of all that the composition of the Administrative Board has not been altered by the reform, which expressly refers to the provisions of Article 19 of the Convention.

As regards the voting rules, they do not appear in the Convention, Article 20 of which refers to the General Rules:

Article 20: "The procedures for the convening of meetings and for decision-making by the Administrative Boards shall be laid down in the General Rules of the Schools provided for in Article 10", which is worded as follows: "The Board of Governors shall lay down the General Rules of the Schools."

It follows that it is up to the Board of Governors to determine the procedures for decision-making by the Administrative Boards. According to the Office's lawyer, who was consulted about the letter from Interparents, in doing so, the Board of Governors is free to lay down as it sees fit the rules for deliberation and voting on the Administrative Boards. It may in particular draw a distinction between power of consultation (two members belonging to the same category represented) and power of deliberation (a single vote).

Under the reform, each category represented amongst the members thus has one vote.

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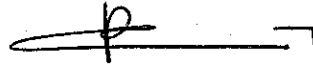
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Finally, the Chair's casting vote does not mean that he/she has a double vote, in so far as it may be used only in the event of a tie.

Consequently, our legal adviser can see no objection of a legal nature to the decision of the Board of Governors concerning voting powers on the Administrative Boards under the reform approved in April 2009.

Yours faithfully,



Renée Christmann  
Secretary-General

**Enclosures: E-mail and letter from Mr Wilkinson, President of Interparents**