

INTERPARENTS Meetings at the European School, Munich 12 -13 April 2010¹

INTERPARENTS met at the Munich European School on Tuesday 13 April 2010. Nine of the thirteen member Parents Associations were represented (apologies by Brussels I, III, IV and Mol). Chair: Ana Gorey, President of Interparents. André Studer, Deputy Head of Secondary welcomed the group and gave us an explanation and tour of the school which was undergoing serious building works for the annex.

A **Roundtable discussion on the European Bac** was held the afternoon before, led by Karin van Vrede, IP representative in the Working group. Topics covered included: Interdisciplinary Project, ECTS (Bologna) marking scheme, Written/Oral examinations, Double correction, Weighting, University recognition. There was a special visit by Graham Johnstone from the Careers Working Group and UCAS coordinator in Munich who explained the work done on Careers Guidance and that this specialised, time consuming work was mostly voluntary. Our main concerns were: how to maintain Bac quality, high standards and get wider recognition.

Ana Gorey reported on the **Budget Committee, 15-16 March 2010**, which she had attended with José Sanchez on the first day and Karin van Vrede the next. The meeting principally raised questions about increased costs and how to cut budgets. There were specific concerns about – additional costs incurred by teaching L1 for Category III pupils, 25% increase in SEN, creation of PAS posts, internal audit recommendations and unforeseen increases pending outcome of tribunal cases (salaries, fees). There were also a number of questions dealing with the constraints and expansion of the system – reduction of class numbers, capacity audit, creation of the 5th Brussels school, European Union enlargement and requests for Category I status. No decisive recommendations on many items, including maths calculator, i.e. discussion is needed again at the Board of Governors. Ana also reported on the **Slovenian presidency lunch**, with Mirko Zorman who had always been supportive of the parents' position. A follow-up meeting is planned during the Board of Governors, and contacts with the Slovak delegation.

The main aim of today's meeting was to prepare **Board of Governors, 14-16 April 2010**. In addition to items already prepared for Budgetary Committee, the group discussed - profile of Secretary General and Deputy, Secretary General's Annual Report with overview of European schools including Type II and III. IP welcome the opening up of the system but stress need for coherence and has position along the lines of Christopher Wilkinson's 2009 European Parliament Hearing IP statement.

Carine Lingier gave an update on our **appeal against the loss of voting rights in the AdminBoards** before the Complaints Board of the European Schools and thanked everyone for having given Interparents an unequivocal mandate to act on their behalf and for their continued support. She stressed the importance of SAC and the need to have real involvement by parents in the school development plan.

Next were reports by IP representatives for the Teaching Committee, Repeat rates, Careers guidance and Bac Reform. Ana Gorey asked all working group reps to work over the summer to prepare background and position papers for a new section of our Website dealing with main issues. This was part of her vision for the coming two years of her mandate revolving around **three i's - involve, inform and influence**.

Interparents website should become the first source of information for our PA's with common guidelines, tips and main documents. It was also a way of keeping knowledge and experience, essential in view of the loss of valuable members such as Carine Lingier and Marie-Claude Donnelly, to whom we say goodbye at this meeting but also of those who have already left. A past members' section will also be introduced on the website.

N.B. This Webreport is issued for quick information of the member Associations under the responsibility of the Chair. It is not the Minutes of the meeting which will follow in due course after being approved by the participants.

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Rapporteur: Ana Gorey.

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