

-----Original Message-----

From: Christopher Wilkinson [mailto:christopher.wilkinson@skynet.be]

Sent: lundi 6 juillet 2009 18:24

To: CHRISTMANN Renee

Cc: GUILLICK Jacqueline; ZORMAN Mirko; FALK Anders;
catherine.day@ec.europa.eu; irene.souka@ec.europa.eu;
interparents@interparents.eu

Subject: European Schools: Composition and voting powers the Administrative Boards.

Importance: High

Madame Renée Christmann
Secretary General
European Schools
rue Joseph II, 30
1049 Brussels

Dear Madame Christmann:

Please find attached Interparents' letter regarding the proposed changes in the composition and voting powers of the members of the Administrative Boards of the European Schools. We request that these amendments be withdrawn. This matter relates to issues of Governance: respecting the balance of stakeholder interests in public administration and to the responsibilities of the Board of Governors with respect the Convention.

In any event, following careful review of the potential implications of these proposals and after consulting all our members, Interparents cannot accept them as they stand. We enter a general reservation and would be prepared to take the matter further should the need arise.

I would be grateful if the Secretariat would forward this message and attachments to the members of the Board of Governors.

Regards,

Christopher Wilkinson
President, Interparents.

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INTERPARENTS

ALICANTE BERGEN BRUSSELS I, II, III & IV CULHAM FRANKFURT
KARLSRUHE LUXEMBOURG MOL MÜNCHEN VARESE

- THE ASSOCIATION OF THE PARENTS' ASSOCIATIONS OF THE EUROPEAN SCHOOLS -

PRESIDENT

6 July 2009

Madame Renée Christmann
Secretary General
European Schools
rue Joseph II, 30
1049 Brussels

Dear Madame Christmann:

**Subject: Composition and voting powers of the delegates to the
European Schools' Administrative Boards**

cc: Mr Mirko Zorman, Mr Anders Falk, Md. Irène Souka, Md. Catherine Day.

The Reform document 2009-D-353-en-4 adopted at the Stockholm meeting of the Board of Governors includes provisions regarding the composition and voting powers of the members of the Administrative Boards of each of the schools. These provisions have recently been carried forward into a proposed amendment to the rules of procedure of the Administrative Boards. These matters are of great importance for the future of the schools because of the increased autonomy accorded to the Administrative Boards in the context of the Reform. In general, Interparents seeks that the additional degree of autonomy recognised to the Administrative Boards be effectively respected in their decision making procedures and rules.

Having reviewed these proposed changes in relation to the 1994 Convention, and notably its Article 19, Interparents objects to these changes for the following reasons:

1. Article 19 of the Convention provides that there will be eight members of the Administrative Boards, including two representatives of the parents. Clearly, it is there intended that each of these members will be full voting members, because observers are explicitly designated as such. Also, the Convention is very precise in other articles in

indicating limitations in voting rights (e.g. art. 9d). Naturally, each voting member is equal and carries the same weight in eventual decisions.

2. The revisions proposed following the Stockholm Board of Governors provide that there would be six members of each Administrative Board, each with one vote. Thus the parents' representatives' vote would be reduced from two out of eight to one out of six. In so far as the Chair is also accorded a casting vote, this could effectively become one out of seven. That would be an unacceptable reduction in the powers and responsibilities of a principal stakeholder in the European Schools system.

3. We consider that it is politically inappropriate and probably not legally possible for the Board of Governors to amend the provisions of the Convention on an ad-hoc basis in this manner. On the contrary, pending a formal review and amendment of the Convention as a whole, the provisions of the Convention take precedence over eventual decisions of the Board of Governors.

4. Furthermore, Interparents takes issue with the proposal that the Chair should have an additional casting vote. Usually, the Chair of a Board holds either a vote, or a casting vote in the event of a tie. But not both! Since the proposed composition of the Administrative Boards is so small, the effect of according a double vote to the Secretariat General is disproportionate with respect to the declared objective of delegation to, and autonomy of, the schools compared with the previous powers of the Board of Governors represented by the Secretary General, and of the European Commission.

* * *

Accordingly, I wish to record Interparents' strong objections to the possible consequences of the proposed changes to membership and voting rights in the Schools' Administrative Boards. I request that these amendments be withdrawn. Should the need arise, Interparents would consider taking this matter further on a more formal basis.

Yours sincerely

-/ signed /-

Christopher Wilkinson

Annexe: Extract from the Convention (Article 19)

Annexe:

CHAPTER 3

The Administrative Board

Article 19

Subject to Articles 28 and 29, each Administrative Board provided for in Article 7 shall comprise eight members, as follows:

1. the Secretary-General, who shall be Chairman;
2. the Headteacher of the School;
3. the representative of the Commission of the European Communities;
4. two members of the teaching staff, one representing the staff of the secondary school and the other the staff of the primary and nursery schools jointly;
5. two members representing the Parents' Association as provided for in Article 23.
6. a representative of the administrative and ancillary staff.

A representative of the Member State in which the School is located may attend meetings of the Administrative Board as an observer.

Two representatives of the pupils shall be invited to attend meetings of the Administrative Board of their School as observers for items of business which concern them.