

REPORT BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

This report describes the activities of the Representative of the Board of Governors and of his Secretariat as well as those of the Preparatory Committees for the 1986/87 school year.

I. RELATIONS WITH THE EUROPEAN SCHOOLS(1) Meetings of the Administrative Boards

This may be regarded as a fundamental activity of the Representative of the Board of Governors. It establishes a link between the administration and school life. It gives an insight into the actual situation at each School since these quarterly meetings consider specific local problems.

These meetings are attended by the Head of the School, the Administration, the representatives of primary and secondary teachers and parents associations and the pupils themselves. They enable local solutions to be found to all kinds of questions concerning the following:

- the state of school premises and the numbers using them;
- requirements in terms of teaching and administrative staff with a view to the preparation of draft budgets,
- difficulties encountered in implementing decisions on administrative or teaching matters,
- attempts to find solutions to the problems encountered by parents regarding administration of the canteen and school transport,
- personal problems raised by teachers and suggested solutions,
- criticisms and constructive proposals made by pupils.

(2) Changes in the school population

It is at these meetings that the Representative of the Board of Governors is informed of changes in the school population and the organization of new options.

On 15 September 1987, the situation was as follows in each School:

SCHOOL	NURSERY	PRIMARY	SECONDARY	TOTAL
LUXEMBOURG	358	1125	1349	2832
BRUSSELS I	196	1058	1804	3058
BRUSSELS II	136	903	1202	2241
MOL	64	253	444	761
VARESE	117	413	750	1280
KARLSRUHE	79	452	568	1099
BERGEN	86	260	356	702
MUNICH	55	289	411	755
CULHAM	72	267	402	741
T O T A L	1163	5020	7286	13469

Compared with the situation on 15 September 1986 the changes are as follows:

- nursery	:	- 3%
- primary	:	+ 3.5%
- secondary	:	+ 1.9%
Total		<hr/> + 1.9%

In the following Schools, the school population as a whole is on the increase:

Luxembourg	6.22%
Brussels I	0.8%
Brussels II	1.4%
Karlsruhe	1.9%
Munich	9.9%

In the following Schools, the school population as a whole is decreasing:

Mol	1%
Varese	1.4%
Bergen	2.8%
Culham	1.6%

(3) Changes in the numbers of seconded teachers

As regards teaching staff, the situation is as follows:

SECONDED TEACHERS IN POST

SCHOOLS	on 15.9.1986	on 15.9.87	Increase or decrease
LUXEMBOURG	172	180	+ 4.6 %
BRUSSELS I	189	198	+ 4.7 %
BRUSSELS II	137	142	+ 3.6 %
MOL	72	71	- 1.4 %
VARESE	108	106	- 0.9 %
KARLSRUHE	78	80	+ 2.5 %
BERGEN	64	64	steady
MUNICH	53	55	+ 3.8 %
CULHAM	70	71	+ 1.4 %
	943	967	+ 2,5 %

(4) Changes in the European Schools

The beginning-of-the-year reports drawn up by the Heads show in detail the changes which have occurred as a result of the development of some sections and the creation of new sections and classes.

(5) Problems with premises

LUXEMBOURG

After Munich, Luxembourg has seen the biggest increase in the school population. The occupation of the old Kirchberg buildings has enabled buildings to be cleared for the primary section, but this gives rise to safety and transport problems which have often been mentioned by parents at meetings of the Administrative Boards.

The Administrative Board decided to set up a working party to study the question of increasing the capacity of the Luxembourg School on a suitable site.

The results of its work are set out in a document which is on the agenda for this meeting of the Board of Governors.

BRUSSELS I

The Belgian Public Works authorities have made available new buildings for the primary section. These buildings were inaugurated by the Minister for Public Works, Mr OLIVIER, at a ceremony organized by the School on 29 June 1986.

Moreover, Brussels I now also has a very functional arts building which was finished in time for the reopening of the School in September 1987.

There are still a few huts which will have to be replaced in the course of the extension planned by the Ministry of Public Works.

I would like to thank the Belgian authorities for the generosity that they have always shown towards the European Schools. The Administrative Board was also occupied with the purchase by the Ministry of Public Works of a piece of land adjoining the School which will serve as a sports ground. Negotiations between the Ministry and the owner of the land are in progress.

BRUSSELS II

Huts were made available for the primary school. They can accomodate seven primary classes formerly housed in rooms made up in buildings with partitions.

These huts will be dismantled after three years. This is the condition on which the commune of Woluwe-Saint-Lambert agreed to the erection of these temporary buildings.

The Administrative board examined on several occasions the problem of the required extension of the Brussels II School. The School is forced to refuse to admit children, even of Community officials, because of a lack of space. With all the inconvenience that this entails for families because of their place of residence, they are then compelled to send their children to the Brussels I School.

Finally, here too, the Ministry of Public Works is planning to develop a sports ground.

VARESE

The problem of buildings at Varese is extremely worrying. The whole Administrative Board paid a visit to all parts of the School. It found that the lack of maintenance has serious consequences in terms of both health and safety.

Some ceilings have collapsed because of damp, electric wires are no longer protected and cracks in the terraces of primary school buildings have given rise to the fear that these terraces, which are used by primary pupils coming out of classes, may collapse.

It is vital that work be carried out urgently to remedy these problems.

The Administrative Board decided to ask the Administrative and Financial Committee to allow a sum of 3 073 000 BFRS to be paid from the 1987 budget by way of an advance, to be reimbursed by Italy, to cover the most urgent repairs before the onset of winter.

Aware of the interest that Italy has in the proper running of the European School on its territory, the Representative is certain that the Italian Government will quickly take the necessary measures.

KARLSRUHE

The Karlsruhe School has fine buildings situated in pleasant surroundings.

Nevertheless, it too faces problems as regards the improvement of certain rooms.

The Administrative Board is pleased to learn that the Land Baden-Württemberg authorities and the city of Karlsruhe have plans to put an end rapidly to these inconveniences.

They should be thanked for their diligence.

CULHAM

The Culham School is very much under-equipped in terms of the facilities needed to teach physical education.

The Administrative Board was able to establish from a visit that the single small gymnasium is not adequate for primary and secondary pupils.

The problem of the safety of pupils who have to cross a busy main road to get to the sports field on the other side was discussed on a number of occasions.

It appears that the United Kingdom authorities are on the point of finding a solution to the problem of providing access to the sports field.

The United Kingdom Government has moreover made great efforts to maintain the buildings and deserves our thanks.

II. LEGAL PROBLEMS

(1) Agreements

The agreement between the United Kingdom and the Board of Governors concerning the European School in Culham has been approved by the Board of Governors. When the Representative of the Board of Governors is next in London, an appointment should be made for the signing of the agreement.

The agreement between the Federal Republic of Germany and the Board of Governors concerning the European Schools in Karlsruhe and Munich is being considered by the Board of Governors at this meeting.

(2) Exemption from VAT

It should be pointed out that the draft agreement proposed by the Federal Republic includes a reciprocity clause as regards exemption from VAT. This clause is under close scrutiny by the Administrative and Financial Committee.

I would like once again to appeal to the Italian Government to accede to the request expressed on several occasions by its Representative on the Board of Governors that the Varese School be exempted from VAT. If Italy grants this facility to Varese, then three Schools will enjoy this privilege which could have a very significant effect on expenditure in Chapters II and III of the budgets.

III. ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

1. In January 1987, the Board of Governors approved by written procedure, with the agreement of the Administrative and Financial Committee, the adjustment to teachers salaries in line with the adjustment of the remuneration of officials of the European Communities.
2. The Administrative and Financial Committee examined a number of problems which were submitted to the Board of Governors. These include the following in particular:
 - (a) questions on which the Board of Governors has taken a decision:
 - increase in school fees
 - setting up of the Board of Appeal
 - extension of remedial teaching to all European Schools
 - further development of secondary structures (first stage)

- computerization in the primary section
- preparation of budgets for the European Schools in ECU
- examination of the draft Court of Auditors report for 1985 and 1986

(b) questions which call for detailed study:

- revision of the Financing Agreements
- revision of the Regulations for Members of the Teaching Staff
- rules governing the admission of pupils to the European Schools
- study aimed at improving administrative procedures at Board of Governors level and revision of the rules of service of the Representative of the Board of Governors.

(3) Internal audit of the European Schools

The term of office of the Internal Auditor was renewed for one year by the Board of Governors at its meeting on 28 and 29 April 1987 in Berlin.

Renewal had been requested for a period of four years as laid down in the regulations for Internal Auditor. The Board of Governors felt the need to reexamine the question in the light of the measures which will be adopted under the new Financial Regulation which is at the revision stage.

The Board of Governors may find from the report drawn up by the Internal Auditor that the audit was carried out in accordance with the instructions given. I would like to stress here the importance of carrying out checks in the European Schools on the manner in which they are managed from an administrative and financial point of view. I would also underline the usefulness of the manual of procedures drawn up by the Internal Auditor.

The European Parliament and the Court of Auditors have stressed the need to consider the implementation of a new financial regulation as an absolute priority. In my view it is indeed essential.

This regulation lays down that a financial controller should carry out a prior examination of all acts with financial implications. It is possible that such a function should be considered. If it was necessary to create a post to this end, I could suggest that this function be assigned to a highly qualified person seconded on a rota basis from the competent Ministries of each of the Member States. The term of office could be three years.

IV. TEACHING MATTERS

The two Teaching Committees met in their traditional form at the beginning of the year and in the autumn, but between these two sessions they held a number of meetings in the form of either Reform Committees, or restricted Boards of Inspectors, or working parties.

The items on the agenda for this meeting show that the preparatory work was productive.

It is regrettable that, because of the lack of time, certain matters already submitted to the Board of Governors in April 1987 have not been examined.

I will mention a number of essential points which have been studied in detail:

- primary section

- . preparation of an in-service training plan
- . study of the possibilities of integrating handicapped children in the European Schools
- . relaxation of the criteria for creating classes in the nursery section
- . the plan for improving internal structures in the primary section
- . preparation of a mathematics syllabus under the EUROMATH programme
- . the computerization programme in the primary school.

- secondary section

- . the two stages in the process of improving internal structures
- . evaluation of the reform of the observation period
- . amendment of the rules implementing the Regulations for the European Baccalaureate
- . revision of the mathematics syllabus for the first three years
- . preparation of a proposal for the introduction of an intermediate school certificate at the end of the fifth secondary year

- both sections

- . revision of the conditions for granting maternity leave
- . examination of a Portuguese syllabus.

V. CONCLUSIONS

Having come to the end of this report, I would like to pay tribute to the Preparatory Committees mentioned in points III and IV.

However, I would also like to say a special word of thanks to my closest collaborators in the Secretariat of the Representative, particularly my Deputy Mr PINCK, Mr CHARLIER, Mr VYVERMAN and all the executive staff who have spared no effort to ensure that meetings are organized and the necessary documents drawn up and circulated.

The workload in the Secretariat is considerable. It involves constant contacts with all the Schools, authorities and committees.

This workload increases from one school year to another with the arrival of new members and consequently the need for translation into other languages.

It is, then, essential and a matter of urgency that this work should be rationalized by centralizing management. Such centralization would make for more efficient working and considerably reduce the inevitable delays which still exist.

To the daily work of the Representative himself should be added participation in meetings, missions, interviews which take place on the occasion of the frequent visits by professors, parents, representatives of bodies which have signed agreements with the Board of Governors, and meetings with representatives of the Court of Auditors.

I would not like to end this report without thanking the teachers for the spirit of cooperation which they have always shown at the various meetings. My very sincere thanks also go to the parents' associations which constantly make a fruitful and important contribution to the European Schools.

Finally, I wish to thank all the delegations who, through their support, enable the European Schools to fulfil their educational role.

R. ROOSE