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# AN ASSESSMENT OF THE EUROPEAN SCHOOL BERGEN BY ITS EX-PUPILS<sup>(1)</sup>

## 1. INTRODUCTION

On the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the European School Bergen, and for the first time in its history, as many as possible ex-pupils possessing the European Baccalaureate have been asked to give an assessment of 'their' school. Ex-pupils are rarely asked for their views when educational matters such as the effectiveness of 'the reform' or similar questions are being evaluated, even though they are probably in a better position to judge the issues than many of the other groups concerned. In our view, the 25th Anniversary provided an outstanding opportunity to remedy this neglect.

A questionnaire was sent to almost all of the ex-pupils who obtained their BAC in Bergen and replies were received from approximately one-third of those contacted. Although this may seem disappointing at first sight, it must be viewed in the context of the difficulties of attempting to contact a group of people spread throughout Europe. For a substantial number of ex-pupils it proved impossible to obtain their current addresses within the time available. When these difficulties are taken into account the percentage response must be considered as a success and an indication that a significant number of our ex-pupils have both an attachment to the School and a continuing interest in it. This is also born out by the fact that an interested concern for the school and an awareness of the unique educational opportunity it offers were common themes of the comments appended to the replies.

## 2. THE RELIABILITY OF THE INVESTIGATION

The total number of replies received was 105. However, for the purpose of evaluating the reliability of the investigation we have confined our consideration to those responses relating to the period 1976-1987 since it is only for this period that exact administrative details of the successful candidates were available.

(1) A Dutch language version of this paper, written in the summer of 1988 and rather more extended in its graphical and tabular form, was published in the 25th Anniversary Book, "Europese School Bergen 1963-1988", pp. 133-159.