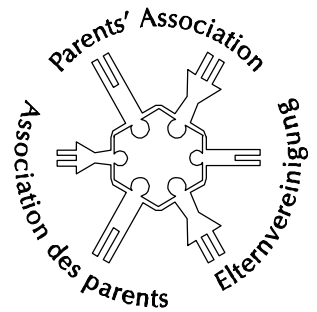


Elternvereinigung der Europäischen Schule München e. V.
Parents' Association of the European School Munich
Association des parents d'élèves de l'école européenne de Munich



Elternvereinigung der Europäischen Schule München e.V.

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Munich, 31.03.2010

Subject: Admission criteria for category III students at the European School

Dear Mr McGinley,

The admission criteria and total number of students belonging to the category III* of the European School Munich (ESM) are once again subject of discussion and review. Up to now such students were only admitted to the school under very limited conditions and were only allowed to join the so called "smaller language sections" (Spanish, Italian, Greek and Dutch).

The board of the Parents' Association (PA) always had a clear position on the acceptance of category III students in the ESM:

- They help to guarantee pedagogical and economical reasonable class sizes in the smaller language sections. Students of category III also create an open atmosphere to the "outside world" and help to minimize the effect of isolation of a school where only EPO, ESA, ... students (category I and II students) are present.
- Students of category III pay an additional contribution to the budget of the school and as such contribute to the reduction of the ESM fixed running costs.
- Furthermore, any possible financial under- or over-payment of a certain group of students should not be regulated by simply not admitting or heavily restricting their admittance to the ESM.

Please find in **Annex II** and **III**, a much more detailed argumentation with regards to the above mentioned position.

In **Annex I**, a summary of the long list of events as well as the outcome of many discussions between the PA and the management of the ESM and the representatives of the EPO is presented.

As you can see from this summary, the PA has made a great effort in order to find viable and harmonized criteria for the admission of category III students. The PA has furthermore provided many arguments that there are financial as well as pedagogical reasons to keep category III students in the smaller language sections (**see Annex II and III**).

From the summary you can also see that the EPO has changed its position completely, going from admission on a case-by-case basis to a simply "lowering of the total number of category III students in the ESM", without giving any solid arguments.

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The EPO's failure to decide in this matter has led to the last event mentioned in **Annex I**, where the ESM informed in a letter, dated 25.03.2010, all parents of future category III students (siblings included) that they should look for another school. The EPO parents of the smaller language sections are now faced with the difficult decision of whether to send their children to language sections with questionable pedagogical conditions or to send their children to the bigger language sections, which then creates e.g. problems of overcrowding in those sections. The parents of category III students are now faced with the problem that they have to send siblings to other schools, with all the attendant problems for those families concerned. It is clear that this eventually looks likely to lead to the termination of the smaller language sections in the ESM, with possible political ramifications.

Until now the PA has really tried to do everything in order to avoid escalating this issue to you, but unfortunately, the timing as well as the content of the last letter of the ESM sent to all parents of future category III students, has forced us to take this step. I would like to ask for your urgent support in this matter. An immediate decision of the EPO on the latest proposal of the ESM is urgently needed in order to provide clarity and to stop the disconcertment.

Regards,

For the Parents Association:

Tom De Backer (1st chairman)

Georg Weber (2nd chairman)

Andreas Orlandi (representative for category III families)

***Category I:** Children of employees of the European Patent Office, of the EU, of teachers, and of administrative and service personnel of the school.

Category II: Children who are eligible for admission due to a contract between their parents' employer and the Board of Governors of the European Schools.

Category III: Children who do not fall into category I or II. School fees are obligatory for non-eligible pupils.

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