



The Hague, 20 November 2009

The Hon. Siim KALLAS

Vice President,
Commissioner for Administrative Affairs, Audit and Anti-Fraud,
European Commission
200 Rue de la Loi
Berlaymont
B - 1049 Brussels
BELGIUM

Subject: Setting up an accredited European School in The Hague

Dear Sir,

The municipality of The Hague supported by the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science is planning to launch the proposal presented to the Board of Governors of European Schools aiming at setting up an accredited European School in The Hague within the International School of the Hague (ISH).

The project would be launched in 2010 and would target students from 16 to 18 years of age, i.e. those in the last two years of secondary school. At the end of those two years, the students would be granted the European Baccalaureate.

On behalf of the Administrations of the European Union bodies and agencies present in The Hague, we would like to convey that indeed, the establishment of an accredited European School in The Hague is greatly desired as this is an essential point for prospective candidates when considering employment in our organisations.



E U R O P O L

The agents working at the EU bodies and agencies in The Hague in principle endorse this initiative –which would respond to the historical claim of having the possibility to send their children to a European School. However, our staff members are concerned about the limited scope of the accreditation which is now requested by The Netherlands, since it is limited to the last two years of the European Baccalaureate education system. Setting up an accredited school that would merely cover the last two years of academic education will not fulfil the needs of our staff, who expect the development of an accredited European School system from nursery through the end of secondary education which consequently would lead to the European Baccalaureate.

Considering the specificities of the European curriculum, it seems an essential pedagogical requirement to first put in place a sound foundation in primary and secondary school preparing the pupils for and ensuring a high success rate in obtaining the European Baccalaureate Diploma. Whereas we accept the need for such arrangement to be tested in a pilot project, it seems to be more appropriate to start such pilot with the first two years of the educational system rather than with the last two years.

We fully support this legitimate claim of almost 4200 EU post holders. Only by the adoption of a comprehensive European School system that would cover the age range from 4 to 18 and which would provide both mother tongue language and a foreign language education from an early age onwards, like the European school systems recently established in other EU cities where EU agencies are based, can we ensure mobility among our agents and therefore overcome our difficulties in recruiting personnel. Therefore we request that the successful outcome of any pilot study will lead to the setting up of a comprehensive European school system in the near future.



E U R O P O L

We would greatly appreciate your support in this matter. Moreover, in the light of the preceding argumentation, we would welcome any initiative of your office towards the appropriate Host State authorities in order to receive a firm commitment for the creation of a comprehensive European School within a viable time frame and to ensure a direct involvement of the interested organisations in the Hague when these matters are being decided.

For any further information your office might require, we would be grateful if you could address Mr. Marc Barendse, Eurojust Welfare Officer by telephone at +31 (0)70 412 5562 or by email at mbarendse@eurojust.europa.eu.

We thank you very much for your time and we remain confident that our concerns will find a receptive ear.

Yours sincerely,

Eurojust
Hans Jahreiss
Administrative Director

Europol
Rob Wainwright
Director

cc Ms. Veronica MANFREDI, Member of Cabinet
cc Ms. Irène SOUKA, Director- General DG ADMIN
cc Mr. Ludolf VAN HASSELT, Director of the Representation of the EC in the Netherlands
cc the Board of Governors of the European Schools
cc Christiane Bardoux, Head of Unit, DG ADMIN, Unit ADMIN.D4 "European Schools"