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WRITTEN COMMUNICATION

Estonian language section in Brussels II European School : proposition to start negotiations

Board of Governors of the European Schools

Meeting in Brussels on 3-5 December 2013



Mr Kari Kivinen
Office of the Secretary-General of the European
Schools c/o European Commission
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1049 Brussels
BELGIUM

21.11.2013 No 3.1-3.1/6495

Estonian language section in Brussels II
European School – proposal to start negotiations

Dear Mr Kivinen,

Estonian Ministry of Education and Research has for many years monitored the situation of Estonian pupils in Brussels II European School. With the continuous increase in the number of Estonian pupils, especially at nursery and primary level, the need to create Estonian language section in Brussels European School has become more and more evident. The results of the questioning among the Estonian parents in Brussels in the end of 2011 also indicated that the necessity for establishing an Estonian-language section at the nursery and primary level exists in the short term.

Today, Estonian pupils form a biggest SWALS group in Brussels. The number of pupils in nursery and first years of primary are sufficient for a separate language section:

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Total number of Estonian pupils in Brussels II	82	89	107	115	138
Number of pupils in nursery and primary	51	62	78	83	101

Continuous increase of SWALS, incl. Estonian, pupils in Brussels II European School has led to the situation, where they form a majority of pupils in some classes of English or French sections. We are sincerely concerned about the problems, tensions and discontent this has caused to the pupils, parents and teachers, especially in the English and French language sections. Rapid growth in the number of Estonian pupils has considerably increased also the work load of Estonian language teachers in Brussels II European School.

Taking into account the situation described above, Estonian Ministry of Education and Research proposes to open negotiations with the purpose to create the Estonian language section in Brussels II European School, starting from the school-year 2014/2015 at nursery level. We are ready to provide the resources necessary to create this section.

The contact person of the Estonian Ministry of Education and Research in the negotiation process will be our representative in the Board of Governors Mrs Kristin Hollo.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jaak Aaviksoo', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jaak Aaviksoo
Minister

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