



Mr Terry Davis
Secretary General of the Council of Europe

Strasbourg, 13 September 2005

Dear Secretary General,

Last year six families with a parent working for the Council of Europe decided to send their children to the European School in Karlsruhe. As you can appreciate, in view of the distance and financial cost, the decisions by the respective families were not taken lightly. Thanks to your intervention all those families who requested it are now receiving essential financial assistance from the Council of Europe in the form of an increased education allowance. As these families are also members of *Etoile Education* I wish to put our association's gratitude on record.

Apart from assisting with the logistics of transporting some 40 children to Karlsruhe and back on a daily basis, our association is closely following the progress towards European schooling hopefully being offered in the Strasbourg/Kehl area, at least at primary level. To this end I have written to Mrs. Keller, Mayor of the City of Strasbourg, Dr. Petry, *Oberbürgermeister* of Kehl as well as Mrs. Honeyball, MEP (Committee on Culture and Education). Please find attached copies of our letters for your information.

As you will see from these letters, we have highlighted to the cities of Strasbourg and Kehl the possible solutions open to France and/or Germany within the framework of European schooling, as amply presented by the recent report of Troika Working Group II (dated 12 April 2005) and the experiences already being gained of the experimental project in Parma (report of 1 April 2005). We have also submitted, for Mrs. Keller's consideration, our initial suggestions for the City's feasibility study into the modalities for establishing a so-called "associated school" offering the European curriculum. We are told the City intends to conduct in the very near future.

As you know, not only Council of Europe staff but also diplomats posted to Strasbourg, foreign researchers as well as expatriates in the private sector continue to stress the need for swift improvement of the schooling options on offer. We therefore welcome the survey aimed at all permanent diplomatic representations which is currently being organized at the behest of the Norwegian Permanent Representative. This survey should provide detailed quantification of the precise interest, within the

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diplomatic community proper, in more accessible and extensive international schooling than the options currently available.

We rest assured that we may continue to rely on your support for our common cause and assure you of our association's interest in being closely associated with the process towards a European curriculum being offered in the Strasbourg/Kehl area. To our mind, the question to be examined is no longer if such an option should be offered, but when.

Yours sincerely,

Leif Berg
President
Etoile Education

Copies to: Ms. Sarah Burton, Chairman of the Staff Committee
Mr. Huber, President of the Council of Europe Staff Association

Encls. As stated