



Mr. Michael Ryan  
Secretary General  
Board of Governors of the European Schools  
European Commission  
Building J11,30  
B-1049 Brussels

u/c Mr. Tom Hoyem  
Director  
European School, Karlsruhe

Strasbourg, 20 July 2005

**Subjects:**

**Progress towards possible European schooling at primary level in the Strasbourg/Kehl area  
Request for seat on the Administrative Board of the European School, Karlsruhe (ESK)**

Dear Mr. Ryan,

Following my letters to you on the 15 September 2004 and the 23 January 2005, I should like to inform you of a number of developments with regard to Strasbourg. I have already expressed the delight of our members that their children are able to benefit from the unique education system the European Schools have to offer. The number of children attending ESK from the Strasbourg area (some 20 at the outset) increased already in the course of 2004/5 and will easily double during the coming school year as we now have confirmed almost 40 children for September 2005.

We consider ourselves extremely fortunate to be within daily driving distance of ESK. The rapidly increasing number of children attending is an indication that both ESK and the whole notion of European schooling are becoming better known within the international community in Strasbourg. Moreover, now that there is a daily bus bringing the children from France to Germany and back, ESK has become a real rather than a theoretical choice for parents. In addition, ESK provides continuity of education for those families transferring to or from Brussels or Luxembourg, or any other location with a European institution and a European School.

Given the frequent enquiries and expressions of interest we are receiving, we are confident that the number of children now traveling to Karlsruhe despite their early departure (between 5:43 and 6:35 a.m.) is just the tip of the iceberg, and that there would be a very significant interest in primary-level European schooling in the Strasbourg/Kehl area. We therefore welcome the City of Strasbourg's intention to conduct a feasibility study into the modalities for establishing an associated school offering European schooling. As you are aware, we are most interested in developments which would avoid having very young children travel to Karlsruhe on a daily basis and yet give these children the very best introduction to the European School system.

To the above end, we intend to work as closely as possible with the cities of Strasbourg and Kehl in order to highlight the different 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). I am attaching, for your information, a document outlining our initial suggestions on the modalities of the feasibility study.

In addition, please be informed that at the behest of the Norwegian Permanent Representative to the Council of Europe a survey aimed at all permanent representations will be completed by mid-September so as to assist the relevant authorities with detailed quantification of the precise interest in more accessible and extensive international schooling than the options currently available in the Strasbourg area.

We understand that the European Commission is currently undertaking a study of ESK and we would very much appreciate being associated/implicated in that process, being, as we are, at "ground zero".

More generally, on behalf of our membership, four of whom are holding Category 1 status and 20 holding Category 2 status, we would like to request a place on the ESK Administration Board. We feel that in this way we can best serve not only the interest of our members but also those of the ESK and the European Schools more generally.

We look forward to being informed of the progress on the aforementioned matters. Please do not hesitate to revert to us if we can be of further assistance.

We would kindly ask you to send a copy of this letter to the leaders of the German and French delegations on the Board of Governors as well as to the European Commission.

In order to express our strong support both for the European Schools and the feasibility study to be conducted by the City of Strasbourg, we propose to write MEP Honeyball and the Strasbourg and Kehl authorities directly. We will obviously transmit copies to you and Mr. Hoyem.

Best wishes,

Leif Berg  
President  
*Etoile Education*

*Etoile Education*  
19 rue Grossmatt  
67800 HOENHEIM  
Internet: <http://www.eskar.org/etoile/index.htm>  
E-mail: [leifandersberg@yahoo.com](mailto:leifandersberg@yahoo.com)  
Telephone: ++ (33) 3 88 41 23 67

Enc.:

"Suggestions for studying the feasibility of providing European schooling in the Strasbourg/Kehl area without setting up a new European School"

## **Suggestions for studying the feasibility of providing European schooling in the Strasbourg/Kehl area without setting up a new European School**

The feasibility study to be undertaken within 2005 within the framework of the tri-annual contract 2003-2005 Strasbourg – Ville européenne aimed, among other things, at planning for a European School (Le projet d'une Ecole européenne; see below).

This study should be aiming identifying the best option(s) for offering European schooling in the Strasbourg/Kehl area and should follow two tracks:

The first stage would be to conduct a survey/questionnaire of international organisations and companies to see what they think of European schooling and identify families interested in European schooling. In order to do so, an outline of what the European School System has to offer must be clearly laid out.

The questions in the survey/questionnaire should be very precise so as to have an immediate idea of the effectifs in each grade and for each language group (and so as to avoid repeating the previous survey).

The surveying should extend geographically to the German side of the Eurodistrict as well as to Luxembourg and Brussels so as to obtain a precise idea of how many would seriously consider sending their children to the Strasbourg/Kehl area or even relocating there, should the choice be widened to include European schooling.

The second track involves identifying existing establishments which might best correspond to the requirements as laid out by the European School Board (see, in particular, the attached document 2005-D-342-en-4 of 12 April 2005).

Upon completion of the two tracks of work, (i.e. an identified demand for European schooling and possible existing establishments), a report would be produced outlining one or more alternatives. This report would provide the basis for discussion on all levels, including financing aspects, before a decision is taken as to which further steps would be appropriate in order to further develop the European Schooling Project.

Kehl and the rest of the German part of the Eurodistrict should be covered by the study, in terms of surveying the interest not only among parents but also within the competent authorities, including the local (Kehl) and regional administration (Baden-Württemberg). Extending the survey to include possible future schooling options in or around Kehl would indeed be perfectly in line with the Eurodistrict project.

## **Background**

Article 21 of the Contrat Triennal Strasbourg – Ville Européenne 2003-2005 provides for a study into a European School in Strasbourg. In May 2005, the City of Strasbourg decided that it was an opportune moment to go ahead with this study. Several factors should be taken into account before such a study:

Firstly, that the Board of Governors of the European Schools meeting, 1-2 February 2005, already discussed the agenda item “Setting up of a European School in Strasbourg”. Working document 2312 D-2004-en-1, included letters by Daniel Vitry, Délégué aux relations internationales et à la coopération, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Emer Daly, Principal Administrator, European Commission. From these letters we can gather that:

- the Strasbourg authorities have long wished for a European School to be set up in the city;
- there is no support either from the European Commission or the European Parliament for the setting up of a fully-fledged, classic European School of the type foreseen in the current Convention;
- the Commission favours the idea that European schooling for small numbers of pupils can be offered in cooperation with existing educational establishments along the lines of the Parma or Dublin models;

Secondly, the conditions to be fulfilled, the framework, criteria and rules, and accreditation for such an Associate School are laid out in Doc. 2005-D-342-en-1. The wider availability of European schooling and of the European Baccalaureate and the cooperation envisaged can only be agreed between the Board of Governors and the competent educational authorities of the countries concerned.

It is clear that it would be easier to fulfill the criteria by initially offering such European schooling at primary level and further developing the far more complex structure of secondary school at a later stage.

CONTRAT TRIENNAL  
STRASBOURG – VILLE EUROPEENNE  
2003-2005

Article 21 : LE PROJET D'UNE ECOLE EUROPEENNE

En matière d'enseignement primaire et secondaire, Strasbourg dispose d'une offre de formation diversifiée qui bénéficie pour une part, aux enfants de parents étrangers installés à Strasbourg en raison de la localisation des institutions européennes.

L'état et les collectivités soutiennent à ce titre le développement de classes bilingues pour le primaire et les formations du lycée international des Pontonniers. Une telle offre constitue un aspect très important de l'accueil des familles des fonctionnaires européens ou des salariés étrangers venant travailler à Strasbourg.

À la différence d'autres villes sièges d'institutions européennes, Strasbourg ne dispose pas pour autant d'un établissement d'enseignement spécialisé dans l'accueil d'enfants et de jeunes étrangers et dont les parents souhaitent qu'ils suivent une scolarité similaire ou proche de celle de leurs pays d'origine, en raison notamment des contraintes de mobilité qu'ils sont amenés à avoir.

L'Etat propose qu'une étude soit menée sur ce sujet afin de préciser les besoins existants, les situer par rapport à l'offre des établissements existants et faire des propositions pour y répondre.

L'état souhaite également que la Commission Européenne et le Conseil de l'Europe soient associés à cette réflexion afin de financer le cas échéant la création de cette école européenne ainsi que son fonctionnement.

L'état soutiendra cette étude à hauteur de 50,000 Euros (FNADT), le Rectorat de Strasbourg apportant son appui technique.

	Etat (en M€)	Ville de Strasbourg (en M€)	CRA (en M€)	CG.67 (en M€)	Total (en M€)
Ecole Européenne	0,05	0,02	0,02	0,02	0,11