



ETOILE EDUCATION

ANNUAL REPORT FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2006/7

1 September 2007

(Approved by the Bureau 2 October 2007)

Introduction

Etoile Education Association, 19, rue Grossmatt, 67800 Hoenheim, was registered on the 31.08.2004 by the *Tribunal d'Instance de Schiltigheim*, Volume 36. Folio n° 37 and published on 9 September 2004 in the newspaper *Ami du Peuple Hebdo*.

The 2006 Annual General Assembly was held on 19 October and had a good turn out. Leif Berg presided and in his introduction reminded the Assembly that he was standing down as President of the Association. He thanked this Bureau, and the previous one, for all their hard work and said how enjoyable it had been working with them during what had been two very crucial years of a new Association. He also thanked Muriel Richardson, another founding member also standing down, for her invaluable contribution and wished the new President and Bureau every success. He took the opportunity to encourage all members to get involved and volunteer their time.

The Assembly then adopted the 2005/6 Annual Report and Financial Report and elected the new members of the Bureau who at their first meeting decided on the following composition which continues to reflect the main components of Etoile Education's membership, including permanent representations, Council of Europe and Eurocorps as well as a balanced combination of old and new members, thereby preserving the continuity of the association and adding "new blood".

Therefore the Bureau for 2006/7 was as follows:

President: Michel CURIEN

Vice-Presidents: Madelena GROSSMAN, Alicia THOMSEN

Secretary: Ana GOREY

Treasurer: Theo WELS

Members: Stina AHLSTRÖM-LUNDBERG, Inge VLAMYNCK, Felicia VOLTZENLOGEL

Specific responsibilities are as follows:

Bus Committee: Alicia THOMSEN and Madelena GROSSMAN should be contacted for any issues with regard to the bus environment.

Relations with Striebig: Felicia VOLTZENLOGEL should be contacted for any issues with regard to the bus service.

Supervision : Inge VLAMYNCK

Phonetree: Merete BJERREGAARD

Membership

Etoile Education had 27 paying members for the academic year 2006/7 at an annual fee of 20 Euros per family. Membership is open to everyone who wishes to join, but membership is compulsory for anyone being represented by Etoile Education in a contract either with the European School fees agreement or with regard to transport.

Following a decision by the Bureau, the membership fee was increased for 2007/8, for the first time since the association was set up, to 25 Euros per family. The Bureau also agreed that the fact that the Association is run on a voluntary basis should be made clearer to members as well as their obligations on joining the association. Hence a new clause on the membership form stating “We understand that the Association is run on a voluntary basis and we agree to contribute a minimum of 2 days per family towards assisting the Association in its work.”

Activities 2006/7

It was a very busy year for Etoile Education which, in addition to its own work assisting members with practical matters and providing a framework for activities by the Strasbourg group vis-à-vis the school, continued to be very involved in efforts to raise awareness about European schooling in general, ESK in particular as well as of the existence of a daily school bus service from Strasbourg to Karlsruhe. In addition, this year has been particularly busy with regard to developments following on from the Karlsruhe school being confirmed as a Type 1 School and the possible opening of ESK parallel classes as an “annex” in Kehl.

Etoile Education continues to serve not only the interests of our members but also those of the ESK and the European Schools more generally. It has a seat on the ESK, Administration Board, which is chaired by the Secretary General of the European School Board, Michael Ryan, and includes representatives from the European Commission as well as the staff, teachers and the parent association. Etoile Education has also increased contacts with Interparents, the parent’s association which regroups all the parents’ associations from each school and which represents them on the Board of Governors.

Etoile Education has become the first port of call for information regarding the European School in Strasbourg. The school continues to host and update our website. The address is www.eskar.org/etoile/. The site is an extremely useful way of disseminating information about the Strasbourg group and transport modalities. Etoile Education’s official e-mail etoileeducation@yahoo.fr is also becoming more widely used.

Etoile Education strongly believes in including the children as part of the association. In view of the fact that the General Assembly is not a good time for them to join in, Etoile Education traditionally organises a separate event. This year took the form of a party on Saturday 21 October 2006.

Etoile Education assists members with practical matters such as:

- 1 **Bank transfers** – for various group payments
- 2 **Category and fees questions** – information and group payments on behalf of Category II members
- 3 **Canteen questions** – group payments
- 4 **After school care** – assistance where there are differences between Lower and Upper school timetables
- 5 **Shaddow / Test days** – assisting prospective families by raising awareness about the European school system, the European School, Karlsruhe (ESK), as well as specifically facilitating travel to and from the school on test days when future students are able to experience the school first hand
- 6 **Open Day – 24 March 2007** – the school organised no free bus this year, however, Etoile Education members volunteered to do car-pooling. The school bus operated as usual and many families drove up independently.

Main activities for 2006/7 have been divided up into four main areas as follows:

- A – Transport
- B – Schooling developments
- C – Raising awareness / Information / Advertising
- D – Fun and Fundraising activities

A – Transport

Etoile Education, organises the school bus leaving from Strasbourg on a daily basis. In order to maintain a competitive bus price, Etoile Education went to tender earlier in the year which resulted in a new company being chosen. A contract to this effect was signed on 3 October 2006 between Etoile Education and Striebig.

The times/route remained essentially the same and the *rentrée* was very smooth. The calculation of the annual fee per seat was made on the basis of the transport-cost policy adopted by the Bureau in June 2005, and were appended to the transport agreements signed between members and Etoile Education. A number of new students joined the bus during the school year, bringing the total number to 37 children. The annual bus price was 1,810€ per seat per year.

Transport difficulties

Striebig are providing a very satisfactory service in general. On 24 January 2007 the bus arrived extremely late (11:20am) due to bad traffic and road conditions caused by heavy snow rather than by the actual weather itself. As of March, there was a slight change in the route due in order to facilitate a stop for one of the students. The bus was cancelled with due warning on Thursday 22 March due to an order by the Prefecture de la Région due to freak weather conditions. However, eight children took the train.

There was a delay on 15 May 2007 due to road works and the lack of timely information to parents in order for them to know that the bus would be very late, the Bureau felt that the phone list system needed to be improved. The Transport Workshop next year, which was felt should to also include parents, ought to discuss this procedure in detail.

Bus Behaviour

A Code of Conduct for the bus Strasbourg-ESK-Strasbourg, approved by the Bureau in June 2005, and the bus booklet was distributed to all members at the beginning of the school year and halfway through the year, and members were requested to discuss the matter with their children. There have been relatively few problems on the bus this year and the Bus Committee effectively dealt with these. However, should the misconduct be of a more serious nature, the Bureau would be involved before any decisions taken.

Not wearing seatbelts, litter and noise level continue to be the main issues and resulted in Striebig complaining on a number of occasions. The Bus Committee spoke with the children reminding them of their obligations and Striebig itself did a secret spotcheck by sending an inspector/driver to monitor the bus for a week. The report back to the Association was favourable but showed the necessity of keeping on top of the situation.

Workshop on Bus Security and Conduct

Following a decision by the Bureau, the Bus Workshop is now an obligation for all children and was held on 17 October 2007 on the school premises. It was conducted by Kristopher Fain, Madelena Grossmann and Astrid Sjögren who used the Bus Booklet, produced as a result of last year's workshop, as a basis for discussion. Three bus monitors were nominated: Kelly Hosten, Aiden Morgan-Wels and Alex Rallis.

Following numerous discussions, the Transport Committee felt that a second workshop was necessary after the Easter holidays. It was clear that the children needed reminding of the rules and of what was expected from them. The Bureau also felt that it was necessary at the beginning of the year to also involve the parents and proposed that in future this be part of the transport contract.

Bus Monitors

The monitor's role is limited to checking whether or not the bus rules are being followed and, if not, to ask the student in question to follow them. At the same time, he or she will warn the student that failure to comply will be recorded and reported to the contact persons. If this has no impact, the monitor will record the incident and bring it to the attention of the contact persons, who will then contact the parents. The weekly reports regarding the bus were regularly and responsibly done. This also allowed the bus committee to pay more attention to the conduct of the various drivers.

After-school care

This year, most families had organised, either individually or amongst themselves or with MOMI, to cover the times when their child's school schedules did not match those of the bus. This is not unexpected considering that this is the third year of the bus and we are no longer unfamiliar with the school's functioning. However, for the first time, there were a number of older students with Friday afternoon classes.

Fortunately, older children were able to return home by other means which is not possible for the younger ones. Jutta Gemeinhardt, a mother at the school, assured supervision on Mondays and Wednesdays for the first term. Etoile Education thanks the school for facilitating these arrangements. There was no supervision for second term due to insufficient numbers of children requiring this service.

Transport contract for next academic year 2007/8

Preparations for the next academic year are as last year. Current members of the association would have until the end of April 2007 to indicate to the Association whether or not they wish to maintain the same number of seat(s) also for the following school year. Seat requests would then need to be confirmed by 30 May 2007 by cheques (25 € for the membership 2007/8 and another for 200 € down payment). After that date, seats would be allocated on a “first come, first served” basis.

Michel Curien had a meeting with Mr. Quirin, Striebig on the 16 May 2007. The main points of the discussion were: unforeseen events, changes to the timetable, forgotten items, cleanliness, driver's attitude, next year's contract. The contract for next year was negotiated to include a 2% increase on our current price.

As was the case last year, there is quite a turn over of members with a number of children finishing their Baccalaureat and others being posted abroad. There are several new families and the number of kids on the bus is expected to be approximately the same. Bus route and times would remain the same for the first week of the new school year and any modifications would be finalised taking into account new requests. Etoile Education always tries to accommodate families as far as possible without adding on any significant time to what is already a long journey for the children.

B – Schooling developments

Etoile Education has been following all the developments regarding the European School system closely and remains very involved which is both time and energy consuming keeping up with all the various initiatives, meetings, memos and correspondence which it has entailed. A number of significant developments have taken place including:

- 1 The Secretary General of the Council of Europe continues to make considerable efforts concerning the school situation in Strasbourg vis-à-vis all relevant authorities. An information afternoon on Schooling at the Council of Europe, 14 March 2007 where various schools were invited to present their schools and educational offer. Following the decision by the Board of Governors in April 2007, it held a questionnaire to evaluate the level of demand and assess the viability of such an initiative amongst staff and permanent delegations. Etoile Education conducted the same survey among the international and local community;
- 2 The Committee of Ministers replied to the Parliamentary Assembly Written Question No. 491 to the Chair of the Committee of Ministers by Mr Schreiner: “Prospects for a European School in Strasbourg” on 9 May 2006. (Appendix 1) and continues to highlight the difficulties faced by non-francophones arriving in Strasbourg in their formal and informal contacts;
- 3 Creation of a Comité de pilotage. November 2006, to undertake the feasibility study;
- 4 The Board of Governors of the European Schools, at its meeting in January 2007 confirmed definitively that the European School, Karlsruhe would remain a Type I school. At its meeting in Lisbon on 17-18 April, the Board of Governors unanimously decided to ask the Director of the European School at Karlsruhe to make a proposal to the Board of Governors by October about the possibility of parallel classes which would be located in Kehl and provide primary classes for children living in France as well as Germany;
- 5 Formal notification by the French delegation to the Board of Governors that they will make a proposal for European Schooling Type II at their October meeting.

European Schooling in Strasbourg/Kehl area

In March 2007, Michel Curien, wrote to a number of personalities at the European, local and regional level with regard to European schooling, requesting a meeting in order to discuss progress and attaching our Background paper on “The Urgent Need for European Schooling for “the Capital of Europe” (Appendix 4). The response was very positive and a series of meetings was set up and which were attended, in the main, by Michel Curien, Alicia Thomsen, and Ana Gorey.

The purpose of these meetings was to update those concerned on European schooling in the light of progress which had occurred on three fronts: on the European Schools, the French and the German fronts. A summary of these meetings was prepared in a Memorandum for the Administration Board meeting (Appendix 3) including the revised Background paper.

Etoile Education has also been at pains to keep in touch with other actors on the matter of European/International schooling. These included Mr. Geoffrey Tomlinson, Director of the Strasbourg International School; Mr. Jean Pierre Perrin, Proviseur Lucie Berger/Jean Strum; Mr. Bernd Hatesuer, President of the association “*Ecole-Europadistrict-Schule*” and now the “*Eurodistrict Citizens*” has also been kept informed and is independently in touch with Mr. Hoyem. No further news has been forthcoming from Mr. Patrick Dancourt, President of “International Development of Education in Alsace” (IDEA) following our request in March 2006 that Etoile Education be granted membership, since his communication to us in May 2006 saying that it would be discussed at their next meeting on the 22 May 2006.

Administrative Board of the European School Karlsruhe

Michel Curien attended the Administrative Board for the first time on 5 December 2006 and where he reported on developments with regard to Etoile Education and progress vis-à-vis bringing European schooling closer to the Strasbourg/Kehl area and strongly encouraging the school towards the idea of an ESK primary school annex in Kelh as a solution to avoid young children having to take the bus so far.

The Administrative Board, 8 February 2007, specifically discusses the budget and there is a clear policy to cut expenses at all levels. Michel Curien raised the question of the need to give schools more flexibility on budgetary issues and to be more autonomous in general. He again raised the issue regarding categories and fees asking if there were any developments. Mr. Ryan informed Etoile Education that this would be discussed by the April meeting of the Board of Governors in Lisbon in the context of discussions on school governance. He encouraged Etoile Education to formalise its request and a letter to this effect was sent on 5 March 2007 enclosing the paper originally presented by Leif Berg at the June 2006 meeting of the Administrative Board on “School fees for officials of governmental and intergovernmental organisations other than EU” (see Appendix 2).

The third Administrative meeting was held on 14 June 2007. Michel Currien and Ana Gorey both attended as this is an important meeting to celebrate the final confirmation of the European School, Karlsruhe as a Type I school and also to say farewell to Mr. Michael Ryan, Secretary General of the European Schools who is retiring. He will be replaced in September by the current Deputy Secretary General, Mme Renee Christmann.

As customary, the meeting was informed of the ongoing work at the school level and at European level. Of major importance, are ongoing discussions as to future governance.

Etoile Education welcomed advances made in the efforts to bring European schooling to the Strasbourg/Kehl area and underlined all the efforts the association had made for many years to this end but in particular a recent series of meetings with local and regional authorities and various parliamentarians and MEPs. A document outlining the purpose of these meetings including a list of the meetings was distributed (Appendix 3). Another document giving other Etoile Education news was also distributed (Appendix 5) and a Bike T-shirts were given to illustrate the event. Etoile Education thanked the school and the teachers for all their efforts and support for the association.

Networking in Brussels

Etoile Education is one of the partners of GUDEE – Groupe Unitaire de Défense des Écoles Européennes and as such has been assisting their meetings in Brussels for some time now.

The GUDEE meeting on the 9 December 2006 in Brussels, was an opportunity to inform those present of the developments regarding the European School, Karlsruhe, the van Dyke Report, and developments with regard to Strasbourg/Kehl.

Michel Curien attended his first GUDEE meeting on 10 February 2007 and presented the revised version of the background note on European Schooling. The meeting drafted a declaration on “Écoles européennes : ce que nous voulons” which was presented to DG Admin of the European Communities at their information meeting on the 13 February 2007. At this meeting it was agreed that the EU Staff Committee would hold a one day conference on European schools in the framework of the 50th anniversary celebrations. This is foreseen for the 7 December 2007 and will be a day of information and discussion on the subject of the European schools (les “états généraux” des écoles européennes). The programme is currently being finalised. Etoile Education is involved in the preparations as it feels that this event could be an excellent opportunity to raise awareness about European Schooling.

It was interesting to note that a brand new international school being set up by the French in Cadarache for the ITER Agency <http://www.iter.org/> starting this September 2007.

These visits to Brussels have also proved useful opportunities to further contacts with the Board of Governors and the European Commission which are difficult, if not impossible, during the Administrative Board meetings. During these meetings we have tried to convey our strong belief that the very best European schooling for our children will come of a project done in the European spirit, “together” (the logo for the 50th anniversary), in cooperation and not competition and that Etoile Education looks forward to following the progress with regard to the various proposals for European schooling in the Strasbourg / Kehl area and contributing to a new vision for the future of the European school system.

Notable of these meetings were: Christiane Bardoux, Head of Unit, European schools, DG Admin and Renee Christmann, the newly appointed Secretary General of the Board of Governors of the European Schools.

C – Raising awareness / Information / Advertising

Main events included:

1. Fête du Rhin – 23-24 September 2006
2. Salon des associations – 7-8 October 2006
3. Primary school Sports day – 10 October 2006
4. Maison de l'Europe – 15 November 2006
5. TV3 report – 12 December 2006
6. Eurodistrict party – 20 January 2007
7. SIS visit – 9 January 2007
8. EE New year lunch – 24 January 2007
9. Club Presse Strasbourg – 31 January 2007
10. ESK Admin meeting – 8 February 2007
11. GUDEE meeting, Brussels– 10 February 2007
12. Council of Europe Schools info day – 14 March 2007
13. ESK Open Day – 24 March 2007
14. EU Parliament Open Day – 1 May 2007
15. European Picnic, Fête des Deux Rives – 20 May 2007

Press Club: Etoile Education is a member of the Strasbourg Press Club and attended their New Year event.

European Parliament Open Day on 1 May: Mr and Mrs. da Torre, Winfried van Gool and Sarah van Loon, would be coming down from the school which was a good sign that they supported the association in this kind of awareness raising effort. There were many, many people interested and all those present were fully occupied discussing European schooling. A joint strategy for such events in the future should be worked on including the preparation of stand decoration and materials to be handed out.

Website: The school continues to host our Website and it is recognised as an important point of information.

As the year before, it was felt that a more targeted presentation specifically on the European School for a wider Strasbourg public would be worthwhile. It was felt that this could be done in the margins of a fun Back to School Euro Party at the beginning of the academic year 2007/8 perhaps in the Salamandar.

D – Fun and Fundraising activities

Main events were:

Bonfire night – 11 November 2006 – Etoile Education participated in this successful event for the third year in a row making pancakes.

Sponsored Bike Ride – 5 May 2007 – Etoile Education was happy to again organise the Sponsored Bike Ride and Fahrrad Festival on Saturday 5 May 2007. We would especially like to thank Elio Sanzillo and the directors of Primary school without which it would have been impossible. This year, special emphasis was made on the Strasbourg start, with kids and teachers joining in the Strasbourg group. Connecting Strasbourg, Kehl and Karlsruhe was also reflected in our great T-shirt logo designed by Thierry Quere, deputy head of Lower school. It was super to have Isabelle Ebert (school nurse), Eugene Voorman and Jerry Fitzgerald participating and helping out in the Strasbourg leg of the bike ride and we encourage more of you to do this next year. Markus Zilly and Daniel Hermann led the group from Karlsruhe train station and all those who made the Bike Festival at the school so much fun.

Sponsored Bike Ride raised over 4,000 Euros. We would also like to thank our sponsors for their generous support:

Weinerberg Bricks- "Building Value"

TI Automotive Technology Center GmbH – "the Flow of Good Ideas"

L'Union Syndicale Fédérale (USF) – "Unity and Solidarity with the World of Work"

Schaeffler Group – "Creative Technology"

Amicale of the Council of Europe

And prizes donated by:

EUROPA PARK – Themepark and attractions

Galerie Lafayette Gourmet – Top gourmet food providers

Société Générale – Corporate & Investment Banking

Etoile Education would like to thank everyone for their efforts and contributions into making every single one of these successful and fun.

Ministers' Deputies
CM Documents

CM/AS(2006)Quest491 final 10 November 2006

Written Question No. 491 to the Chair of the Committee of Ministers by Mr Schreiner: "Prospects for a European School in Strasbourg"

Reply of the Chair of the Committee of Ministers

Question

[Doc 10917 rev
9 May 2006]

In its Resolution 1357 (2004) on "realising Strasbourg's potential as a European capital", adopted by the Parliamentary Assembly on 26 January 2004, the Assembly regretted that the French Government had not "pursued the idea of a European school, particularly with the creation of a "Euro district", in order to make it possible for the various levels of education to be included and for the school to have the European status that seems essential", and launched the following appeal: "for Strasbourg to develop, educational facilities catering for the children of diplomats, civil servants, company heads and executives, who, increasingly, are English-speaking, must also be established".

In a number of parliamentary questions to the Chairman of the Committee of Ministers (in June 2002, June 2003, January and June 2004 and January and June 2005), the Parliamentary Assembly reaffirmed its support for a plurilingual and multinational education system geared to fostering a European and global perspective. It also expressed its understanding for the difficulties encountered by the children of members of permanent delegations and Council of Europe staff, increasing numbers of whom board buses every day for the nearest European School in Karlsruhe.

While acknowledging the efforts expended by the Secretary General in his contacts with the French Minister for Foreign Affairs, the City of Strasbourg, the European Commission and the Board of Governors of the European Schools, and while welcoming the decision by the City of Strasbourg to conduct a feasibility study of European schooling under the three-year contract for 2003-2005 "Strasbourg – a European City" (this decision having been renewed for the period 2006-2008), we

now consider that the good intentions that have been expressed for several years must be put into practice. As the author of the report that led to the adoption of the aforementioned resolution and as a parliamentarian who is more attached than others to Strasbourg's European destiny, I am prepared to provide my support for all efforts expended to this end, in co-operation with all the parties concerned and the Committee of Ministers.

Consequently, we ask the Chairman of the Committee of Ministers:

Whether the Committee of Ministers as a body and the Council of Europe member States which it represents are in a position to endorse the importance of a European School in Strasbourg/Kehl and, more particularly, to closely monitor the progress of the French government-funded feasibility study, taking account of the opportunities provided by the presence of a European School in Karlsruhe;

Whether the relevant members of the Committee of Ministers could bring this matter as quickly as possible to the attention of their respective ministers of education and foreign affairs and of the European Commission, particularly under its current debate on the future of European Schools and the high-level conference to be held next May in Noordwijk, the Netherlands, at the joint invitation of the Vice-President of the European Commission, Siim Kallas, and the Dutch Minister of Education, Culture and Science, Maria van der Hoeven.

Signed:

SCHREINER, Bernard, France, EPP/CD

Reply:

1. The Honourable Parliamentarian raises important questions linked to the prospects for a European school in Strasbourg, home to the Council of Europe, the European Parliament, the European Ombudsman, EuroCorps, an ever-growing community of diplomats with families from nearly 50 countries, as well as an increasing number of foreign researchers and private-sector employees. The Chairman of the Committee of Ministers commends the Honourable Parliamentarian's sustained interest in this matter and thanks him for his active support for the efforts aimed at putting into practice the intentions expressed over several years.

2. The Chairman of the Committee of Ministers underlines the importance he and his country attach to the need to have truly international and European education in Strasbourg, which is currently lacking. To devise a practical strategy to achieve this aim, he hosted, as the Honourable Parliamentarian is aware, a working lunch with a number of relevant stakeholders on 12 September.

3. He applauds the efforts made by Terry Davis, Secretary General of the Council of Europe, to provide a real choice of schooling for parents and children of the international community and to follow closely the developments on this matter in his contacts with the French government, the City of Strasbourg, the European Commission and the European Schools. He encourages the Secretary General to pursue such efforts. He also welcomes the recent reactivation by the Strasbourg Academy of a working group on “international education” with the aim of developing an appropriate institutional and educational solution for the introduction of an offer of English-language based schooling, if possible for the 2007/2008 school year.

4. The Chair notes with interest the Conclusions of the Conference on the Future of European Schools (Noordwijk, May 2006), “that it is necessary to think beyond the current ES System composed of 13 existing European Schools, and to consider a more flexible concept: a ‘European Schooling System’ with clearly defined criteria which could apply to different types of schools according to the local conditions.” He notes moreover that the Secretary General wrote to Mr Sim Kallas, Vice-President of the European Commission responsible for European Schooling on 14 April and 27 July 2006 expressing his support for the high-level process of reflection initiated by the European Union and asking for involvement in the further reflections.

5. In the light of the above, the French government is called upon to facilitate and ensure access for, and integration of, non-French speaking children into the public system of international sections, of which the number should be increased, in the state school structures (in particular by increasing the number of courses taught in English). In order to increase the range of possibilities open to families to choose from, it would also be advisable to explore new solutions, which could, for example, enable integration into the network of European schools on the basis of these international sections, or the introduction of a curriculum leading to an International Baccalaureate.

6. The reply will be forwarded to the Ministries of Education and Foreign Affairs of member states in order to draw their attention to the need for their support in establishing European schooling in Strasbourg as a matter of urgency.



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, 5 March 2007

Dear Secretary General,

May I first express our immense satisfaction with the results of the Van Dijk evaluation and with the Board of Governor's decision to confirm that the European School, Karlsruhe will remain a full European School. This decision was also confirmed by the Commission's representatives at the Admin board. We know that this is the strong foundation needed in order to extend European schooling closer to Strasbourg and we look forward to rapid progress being made from now on. We continue to rely on your support in that regard.

Our special thanks go to Mr. Hoyem for his never-failing determination and faith in the European School, its mission and the best interests of each child. We look forward to his continued leadership and enthusiasm.

At our last meeting at the ESK Administrative Board on 15 February 2007, I asked for further information on the results of the Working Group on Fees and Categories and in particular how these would take into account the specificities of our members, many of whom work for governmental or intergovernmental organisations. Rather than reiterate these here, I attach our memorandum on the subject as attached to the minutes from the Administrative Board meeting in June 2006.

I understand that this is a busy time of reflection and change with regard to the functioning of the European School system. This makes it even more important to bear in mind specific situations such as that prevailing in the so-called “Capital of Europe” and to seek a more flexible approach. One of the main specificities being that the majority of Etoile Education’s members are currently paying category II fees, despite the fact that they work for governmental or intergovernmental organisations such as the Council of Europe, Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe, the European Ombudsman and Eurocorps.

I look forward to hearing back from you in the near future on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Michel Curien
President
Etoile Education

Copies to: Members of the European School Board of Governors
Members of the Administrative Board, European School, Karlsruhe
Mr. Tom Hoyem, Director, European School, Karlsruhe



ESK ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD

29 June 2006

SCHOOL FEES FOR OFFICIALS OF GOVERNMENTAL AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS OTHER THAN EU

The majority of Etoile Education's members based in the Strasbourg area are currently paying **category II** fees, despite the fact that they work for governmental or intergovernmental organisations (Council of Europe, Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe and Eurocorps), **much like their European Union counterparts, who are considered Category I.** The category II fee hits very hard on military officials and civil servants other than those holding senior-ranking posts. To this burden should be added the significant cost incurred by the pupils' daily travel from the Strasbourg area and, for some, the additional cost of after-school care on ESK premises (MoMi or other activities).

By way of example, the overall cost burden in respect of one child may look as follows:

School fee	11,110 euros
Bus transport	1,965 euros
After-school care (MoMi)	1,000 euros
<u>Total cost</u>	<u>14,075 euros</u>

When parents have more than one child attending ESK this burden is even further increased due to the fact that no reductions are made for category II siblings. Generally, efforts are made by schools to make some kind of reduction for siblings so as to enable children of the same family to attend the same school (as ESK does for category III).

Etoile Education first raised these issues in our letter to Mr. Ryan of 23 January 2005. Soon thereafter Mr. Terry Davis, Secretary General of the Council of Europe, requested through Mr. Ryan that the Board of Governors consider the possibility of affording *ad hoc* status to the children of Council of Europe staff (see the attached document SG/Com(2005)917). The item was also touched upon when Mr. Davis met with Mr. Kallas in April 2005 (see the attached document SG/Com(2005)925). In his letter to Mr. Ryan of 22 March 2006 (also attached) Mr. Davis re-iterated his request desire for quick progress on this issue.

It is also the firm view of Etoile Education that the question of the Council of Europe's fee status now needs to be resolved as a matter of urgency, together with the question whether Eurocorps should be afforded similar or other *ad hoc* status.

Indeed, it is a fact that the 27 EU member states now constitute the majority within the Council of Europe and the two bodies are increasingly co-operating on joint programmes and the like. Council of Europe staff have altogether hundreds of children who would qualify for *ad hoc* status (Ia?). The European Parliament in its resolution 2002/2083 (INI) speaks of “children of staff of (a) “European body” which these potential students certainly are.

In sum, even though children of staff at the Council of Europe and Eurocorps *stricto sensu* do not qualify for category I status, these students must nevertheless be considered “closer” to category I than to category III and specific regard should be had to this fact, by way of granting them a particular fee status. In addition, many diplomats working in the Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe represent the government of an EU member state and might therefore arguably be entitled to a specific fee status as well, given that their employer is already contributing to the European Schools through the overall EU budget.

A compromise solution which might be applied at least on an interim basis and for which there is already a precedent is the so-called category IIIa which applies to NATO. NATO is one of the so-called co-ordinated organizations, like the Council of Europe. The category IIIa fees would appear to be considerably lower than those applicable to category II children. As there are different category IIIa fees for Nursery, Primary and Secondary school, families with more than one child can be offered the requisite financial flexibility.

At the very least, considering ESK’s location near the headquarters of the Council of Europe and Eurocorps, we would request that this school be allowed to design and implement a pilot scheme which would cover not only sibling reductions but also the *ad hoc* status to be afforded to particular client groups based in and around the Capital of Europe, as outlined above.

Leif BERG
President
Etoile Education



MEMORANDUM

Meetings on the subject of European Schooling

Note for ESK Admin Board meeting on 14 June 2007

Etoile Education, an association set up three years ago representing parents whose children attend the European School, Karlsruhe, have been working for many years now, towards the creation of a European schooling in the Strasbourg/Kehl region and have been very active on the European and local level. Not only have we been following developments closely but we have also kept others informed as far as we could.

In March 2007, Michel Curien, President of Etoile Education wrote to a number of personalities at the European, local and regional level with regard to European schooling, requesting a meeting in order to discuss progress and attaching our background paper on “The Urgent Need for European Schooling for “the Capital of Europe” (Annex I). The response was very positive and a series of meetings was set up and which were attended, in the main, by Michel Curien, Alicia Thomsen, and Ana Gorey.

The purpose of these meetings was to update those concerned on European schooling in the light of progress which had occurred on three fronts: on the European Schools, the French and the German fronts.

On the **European Schools front**, decisions have been taken at the highest level to open up the European School system to all Europeans not just those working for the European Union.



IP-06-1560_EN.doc
(36 KB)

For the first time, member states can request the setting up of "associated European Schooling" (Type 3). There are already criteria in place for this (2005-D-342) but exactly how it will work in reality (i.e. how it would be financed) is still being looked into. Also, existing European schools can begin to look into the possibility of nearby annexes.



2005-D-342-en-4.D
OC (107 KB)

On the French front, it seems that there is now a consensus in favour of European schooling and a new willingness to support the initiative. A Comité de Pilotage has been set up under the aegis of the Préfet of Strasbourg, in order to conduct the feasibility study as required by Article 21 : Le Projet d'une Ecole Européenne.



Article 21.doc (35
KB)

However, this Comité de Pilotage has still not yet met and we would very much like to know who is in charge, where they are on this matter, what steps they intend to take, when such a study might be foreseen by and how we might be involved. For the credibility of the study, it is essential that they have looked into at least 4 or 5 options for Associated European Schooling in Strasbourg, including at least one option which takes into consideration the EuroDistrict framework.

On the German front, the European School, Karlsruhe was definitively confirmed by the Board of Governors (Conseil Superior) at their January 2007 meeting as a traditional full European School (Type I) following an excellent evaluation which was conducted at the requested by the European Commission. The school is a huge asset to the area and enjoys strong support from the Lander of Baden Wuttenberg and City of Karlsruhe. This support was amply reflected in the local press.



article on school
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So as to avoid young children between 6 and 8 years old having to take the bus everyday to Karlsruhe, the idea of an annex to the European school, Karlsruhe in Kelh would be most welcome. As this would not entail a new school or statutes and as it is even the same Lander, it could be a very easy immediate solution. Schooling would then continue in Karlsruhe or in Strasbourg as and when that option becomes available.

In conclusion, we said that we knew that both the German and French sides are interested in European Schooling in this area but that it was not only a question of political will but also a question of time. Families have been waiting long enough and the sooner proper European Schooling is in place the better. Further delay not only looks bad but would be unacceptable.

Bearing the above factors in mind, progress should be pushed simultaneously on both French and German sides at both regional and national level and within the EuroDistrict framework. Progress on one front should in no way impede progress on another and in fact can only complement each other. It is essential to remain vigilant to ensure progress is in right direction.

Subsequent developments

Following all these meetings, which were substantive and rich in discussion, and subsequent developments, we are convinced more than ever, that such a valuable project as educating our children the European way, needs to be done in cooperation with all the partners concerned.

We live and work in a European context and it is important to foster the concept of European identity and citizenship, to strengthen European integration and encourage a European and global perspective overall. In view of this mission, it would be preferable for discussions to be around the table with all partners present and working in a transparent manner so as to achieve the very best solution to bring European Schooling to the Strasbourg/Kehl region as soon as possible.

The words which express the essential aims of the European: *“Educated side by side, untroubled from infancy by divisive prejudices, acquainted with all that is great and good in the different cultures, it will be borne in upon them as they mature that they belong together. Without ceasing to look to their own lands with love and pride, they will become in mind Europeans, schooled and ready to complete and consolidate the work of their fathers before them, to bring into being a united and thriving Europe.”*

Calendar of Meetings

28 March 2007 – Mr. Armand Jung, French Parliamentarian represented by Mr. Eric Elkouby.

29 March 2007 – Mr. Pascale Mangin, Deputy Mayor of Strasbourg dealing specifically with the question of European Affairs and international schooling assisted by Mr. Gerard Belliard.

18 April 2007 – Mr. Bernard Schreiner, President of the French Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and author of the Written Question No. 491: “Prospects for a European School in Strasbourg” to the Chair of the Committee of Ministers.

19 April 2007 – Mr. Adrien Zeller, Président du Conseil Régional d’Alsace, assisted by Mr. Paul Higi, Conseiller Technique auprès du Président du Conseil Régional d’Alsace.

26 April 2007 – Mr. Philippe Richert, Président du Conseil Général du Bas-Rhin.

26 April 2007 – Mr. Joseph Daul, MEP and Leader of the EPP-ED group in the European Parliament, the largest group in the European Parliament.

23 May 2007 – Mme. Sandrine Godfroid, Secretary General, Affaires Europeennes, Prefecture in the presence of Mr. Jean-Michel Mertz, Inspecteur Général, Académie de Strasbourg + Mr. Weber, Prefecture

25 May 2007 – Mr. Jean Pierre Perrin, Proviseur, Lucie Berger + Jean Strum

28 May 2007 – Mme Catherine Trautmann, MEP, Member of the Culture and Education Committee.

5 June 2007 – Mr. Gilles Vial, Chef de la délégation française au Conseil supérieur des Ecoles européennes accompanied by Mr. Hervé Combaz, Secrétaire général adjoint, Académie de Strasbourg.

8 June 2007 – Mr. Roland Ries, Sénateur du Bas-Rhin, Conseiller Municipal et Communautaire de Strasbourg, assisted by Mr. Yves Zimmermann



The Urgent Need for European Schooling for “the Capital of Europe”

Updated Background Paper – 1 February 2007

Advantages of the European School System: The European School System’s multicultural, multilingual environment and European curriculum and Baccalaureate, have been specifically designed with European civil servants in mind. The European Schools are more relevant than ever with the European Parliament, the Council of Europe and UNESCO and other major inter-governmental organisations all recommending multilingual, multicultural European education in all member States. The European School System has the advantage that this model already exists and only needs to be adapted to a wider mission than just catering to the children of the staff of EU institutions. Europe is crying out for the EU’s engagement on this issue.

European Schools help our continent to prepare our young people to live in a world where frontiers are porous and where work and exchanges are increasingly trans-national and trans-cultural. European institutions have an obligation to sustain the objective of mobility and education which favours linguistic and cultural diversity is one of them. In 2006 the “Year of European Workers’ Mobility” this cannot be emphasised enough.

A “Capital of Europe” without a European School: It has been a long-standing wish to have a European School in Strasbourg, home to the Council of Europe, the European Parliament, the European Ombudsman, EuroCorps, an ever-growing community of diplomats with families from nearly 50 countries as well as an increasing number of foreign researchers and private-sector employees. Surprising as it may seem, and despite labelling itself “The capital of Europe” Strasbourg does not offer genuinely international schooling accessible and affordable to all families in need thereof. Moreover, the secondary-level educational offer in the Strasbourg area is strictly / for all practical purposes limited to the French Baccalaureate.

As employers, the European institutions and diplomatic representations based in Strasbourg have a strong and shared interest in securing schooling options tailored to the specific linguistic, cultural and other needs of their staff members’ children. With its 25 and 46 member states respectively, the European Union and the Council of Europe cover a vast geographical area with a large variety of languages, cultures and school systems. It is in the interest of all European bodies and diplomatic representations in Strasbourg to attract, recruit and retain good staff from all these states.

Highly-qualified European civil servants and soldiers with school-aged children are increasingly mobile and correspondingly less willing to “integrate” into French society by having to accept such schooling for their children as to render them effectively less mobile than their parents. The provision of high-quality international education, which is seamless across borders, is a top priority for staff who want their children to receive the best possible education while maintaining links with the home language and culture. They also want their children’s education to reflect the core values of diversity and intercultural understanding which are the key to the work of the EU bodies and Council of Europe. Student mobility contributes to cultural enrichment and European integration.

That the Council of Europe has shown such interest in obtaining better access to European schooling comes as no surprise, especially bearing in mind that 25 of the 46 member states of the Council of Europe are already in the European Union, have already signed the European School Convention and others will follow their example in the next few years.

The Council of Europe has also done extensive work in the field of education and culture; standard setting and policy development; efforts to foster the concept of intercultural education, a European identity rooted in national diversity, European citizenships and the need to strengthen European integration.

The need for European schooling in the area will become ever more significant should the future European Institute of Technology be located in Strasbourg.

2001 report to the French Prime Minister: The need for a European School in the area was revived five years ago when Roland Reis, Ex-Mayor of Strasbourg, presented, on 20 December 2001, his report “*Renforcer la vocation européenne de Strasbourg*” to Lionel Jospin, then Prime Minister of France, who had requested it in light of the major developments in Europe since the fall of the Berlin Wall. It is not insignificant that, of the propositions made by the “*Mission Interministerielle pour le Rayonnement Européen de Strasbourg*” (MIREs), the creation of a European School and the improvement of existing international efforts, ranked third out of ten.

Tri-annual contract between the French Government and Strasbourg: The importance attached to the perceived need for European schooling is further evident from the fact that 50,000 € was allocated within the framework of the Tri-annual Contract for 2003-2005 between the French Government and Strasbourg as “*Ville européenne*” in order to conduct a feasibility study on “*Le projet d’une Ecole européenne*” in consultation with the European Commission, the Council of Europe and other local stakeholders. In undertaking to finance such a study the French authorities recognised, in Article 21 of the Contract, that – in contrast with other cities hosting European institutions – Strasbourg lacks appropriate schooling facilities for children of foreign origin.

Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly Resolution 1357 (2004): The need for a European School in the Strasbourg area was again raised by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in January 2004, when adopting its Resolution 1357 (2004) on “*Realising Strasbourg’s potential as a European capital*”. The Parliamentary Assembly regretted that the French Government had not “pursued the idea of a European school, particularly with the creation of the “Eurodistrict”, in order to make it possible for the various levels of education to be included and for the school to have the European status that seem[ed] essential”. The Parliamentary Assembly furthermore urged Strasbourg “to develop educational facilities catering for the children of diplomats, civil servants, company heads and executives who, increasingly, are English-speaking”.

Council of Europe parliamentary questions: The increasing pressure on providing more appropriate international schooling is well-reflected in the fact that between 2002 and 2005 members of the Parliamentary Assembly put as many as six questions on the subject to the Chairman-in-Office of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. Each question stressed the urgency of offering, in the Strasbourg area, a genuine international schooling based on the European Schools model. As the situation has still not been resolved despite the Chairman's recognition of the urgency of the matter, an ever-growing number of children are attending the European School Karlsruhe (ESK): their number has increased from 5 to 45 in two years, even though they are leaving home before 6 a.m. on a daily basis. 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. A number of children of EU civil servants posted to the Ombudsman's office are currently attending ESK, a fact which has also been highlighted in the European Parliament (see, for example, MEP Caspary's written questions E-2137/05 and 4130/05).

Contacts between Council of Europe's Secretary General Terry Davis and Commissioner Siim Kallas: In the spring of 2005 Mr. Davis met with Mr. Kallas, Vice President of the European Commission, and Michael Ryan, Secretary General of the Board of Governors for the European Schools, to discuss this very matter and also to seek clarification as to its status vis-à-vis its category. The Secretary General informed the Committee of Ministers on 4 May 2005 that "*The objective of my meeting with Sim Kallas was to make the Commission aware of the Council of Europe's interest in obtaining better access to the European School system. The Commissioner informed me about a study currently underway to consider both the development of the current network of European schools and models of co-operation between the network and other schools.*" In March 2006, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe wrote to Commissioner Sim Kallas and Michael Ryan respectively and stressed the overwhelming support of the diplomatic community for the establishment of an International/European School in the Strasbourg/Kehl area, recalled the feasibility study which is to be undertaken by the City of Strasbourg and asked to be kept informed about further developments, the results of the Conference on the European School System, to be held in May, and especially as regards possible options to improve the situation.

Developments in the Board of Governors of the European Schools: The Board of Governors of the European Schools, meeting in February 2005, already discussed the agenda item "*Setting up of a European School in Strasbourg*". It transpired from the working documents of that meeting that the Strasbourg authorities had long wished for a European School to be set up in the city; that there was 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; and that the Commission favoured offering European schooling through associated schools. The conditions to be fulfilled, the framework, criteria and rules, and accreditation for such schools 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.

International staff voting with their feet: The very fact that an ever growing number of families in the Strasbourg area are choosing to abandon the "pure" French national option of so-called "international schooling" – available for free in Strasbourg at primary and secondary level – in favour of fee-based schooling should be proof enough that ESK is filling a significant lacunae: the City of Strasbourg and/or the French Government has simply not been keen to offer schooling tailored to the very specific needs of numerous multilingual and multicultural families. As long as there is no concrete political will to establish European schooling in the area, more and more children will be travelling for three hours a day to attend ESK. This situation is clearly detrimental to Strasbourg's reputation as "The Capital of

Europe” and has a direct impact on the possibility for the European institutions and other employers to attract the most qualified staff.

Survey of families connected to the 46 diplomatic representations: According to a 2005 survey of families connected to the 46 diplomatic representations (conducted at the behest of the Norwegian Permanent Representative, then Chairman of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe) 48 out of 52 diplomatic families would be interested in (proper) international or European schooling. However one defines this concept, it is abundantly clear that what is being offered by the “pure” national system is not considered as “international or European schooling” by the families for whom it should be intended.

Cross-border co-operation with the “Eurodistrict”: Also to be borne in mind is the cross-border “Eurodistrict”, an administrative entity comprising Strasbourg, the neighbouring city Kehl in Germany as well as nearby municipalities on both sides of the Rhine. The “Eurodistrict” came into being with Mr. Chirac’s and Mr. Schröder’s strong support and is currently in the process of identifying concrete forms of cross-border co-operation. Maybe Kehl – a city with 102 nationalities located only minutes away from Strasbourg – might be interested in providing the necessary infrastructure for opening an “associated” European School at primary level in September 2007. Such a school would offer a minimum of nine classes (the first three years of primary school, divided into three language sections: German, French and English) and would welcome students from both sides of the Rhine.

Parliamentary Assembly Written Question No. 491 to the Chair of the Committee of Ministers by Mr Schreiner: “Prospects for a European School in Strasbourg” on 9 May 2006. Reply of the Chair of the Committee of Ministers on 10 November 2006 in which the Chairman of the Committee of Ministers underlines the importance he and his country attach to the need to have truly international and European education in Strasbourg, which is currently lacking. The reply was forwarded to the Ministries of Education and Foreign Affairs of member states in order to draw their attention to the need for their support in establishing European schooling in Strasbourg as a matter of urgency.

Conference on the Future of the European Schools, Noordwijk, the Netherlands, 15-16 May 2006: In order to stimulate appropriate political debate on these matters, Vice-President Kallas and the Dutch Minister for Education Ms van der Hoeven (chairing the Board of Governors of the European schools from August 2005 to August 2006) decided that an in-depth re-think was needed of the main aspects of how the European school system should be governed and financed as well as educational aspects. The conference gave fresh political momentum to the debate on the future of the European schools. The discussion was most fruitful around the education aspects and the future of the system outside Brussels and Luxembourg.

Consensus was reached about the following matters:

- educational questions, including the importance of a common curriculum leading up to the European Baccalaureate;
- a vision on schooling for the children of the staff of the small agencies scattered throughout the EU;
- opening up the European Baccalaureate to schools with no connection with a European institution but which meet strict criteria;
- the need for each school to have greater autonomy, with a concomitant strengthening of financial responsibility and control;
- the need for reform, particularly as regards governance.

Conversely, the debate on governance reform and any changes that should be made to the Convention was more divided, with each country attached to its national prerogatives.

In view of these conclusions, Vice-President Kallas and the Dutch and Portuguese Ministers (Portugal took over the presidency of the European schools from August 2006 to August 2007) called for an interministerial meeting on the fringes of the education Council on 13 and 14.

In the course of this orientation meeting, a large majority of EU ministers and the Commission agreed on the need for a more flexible concept of the European school system, which could be applied in the future to three types of schools: the existing classical European schools; the national or international schools providing European education to the children of EU staff in locations where European agencies are about to be founded and that could be entitled to offer the European baccalaureate; and a third type where a Member State decides to take such an initiative independently of the existence of a EU agency or institution. The participants to the meeting also largely agreed on the need for a reform of the governance aspects aimed to give greater autonomy to the schools balanced with greater accountability in pedagogical issues and in aspects of management and finance.

As a result, the following political orientations were defined:

- for all European schools established or to be established next to EU agencies or equivalent bodies, costs should be mainly born by the host country, but the Commission should be required to pay a contribution out of the EU budget which would have to be proportional to the number of EU staff children attending such schools
- on the issue of fairer cost-sharing among Member States, notably as far as the detachment of mother-tongue teachers is concerned discussion needs to be pursued
- the launching in 2007 of a pilot project aimed to open up the European Schools educational model to schools all over the EU. The idea is to promote the spreading of the European Baccalaureate to any school which complies with the requirements set by the European Schooling system regarding pedagogical targets.

These issues will now be further examined and discussed within the regular framework of the Board of Governors of the European Schools.

Conclusion

The schooling needs of the families of Strasbourg-based European civil servants, diplomats, soldiers and researchers working for a variety of European bodies and diplomatic representations have increased and diversified over the last decade, as have the expectations of the international companies wishing to settle in the area. An official proposal to establish a European School was made already five years ago but much time has been lost as a concrete blueprint has yet to be drawn up. As, in the meantime, the European Commission has decided no longer to support the creation of “classic” European Schools, there is no more time to waste in order to secure the creation of an associated European school which would be equally accredited to deliver the European Baccalaureat.

The number of families who have already opted for European schooling despite the inherent financial and practical difficulties involved in sending them to Karlsruhe provides ample proof that there would be a very significant interest in European schooling in the Strasbourg/Kehl area. At the very least this could be achieved in the form of a pilot scheme establishing – in Strasbourg or Kehl – either an associated school at primary level or possibly a branch of ESK within the framework of the “Eurodistrict”, in accordance with the criteria adopted by the Board of Governors of the European Schools.

Recommendations

As new European schools proper are no longer likely to be opened the move towards widening the availability of the European school system, and perhaps branches of existing ones, is very encouraging, especially now that the High Level Group supports the idea of Associated European Schools.

Article 21 of the Tri-annual Contract between the French Government and Strasbourg provides the political basis and financial means for outlining the final blueprint of an associated European School in the Strasbourg area. As the feasibility study was not conducted during the initial three-year period foreseen it is now vital that this feasibility study should now be carried out as soon as possible, ideally in concert with Kehl. Whatever the location of a European associated school, it is obvious that it will be serving the needs of families and children on both sides of the Rhine. This should be urgently conducted under the auspices of a senior-ranking independent person and with the active involvement of all parties concerned.

Also, subject to the consent of the French and/or German authorities, a “general interest file”, as required by the Board of Governors of the European Schools, should be prepared with a view to seeking accreditation of an Annex of ESK and/or an associated European school in Strasbourg or Kehl. As a precondition for its accreditation it will have to offer at least three language sections (most likely English, German and French).



MEMORANDUM

Other Etoile Education news

Note for ESK Admin Board meeting on 14 June 2007

Etoile Education, an association set up three years ago representing parents whose children attend the European School, Karlsruhe, continues not only to provide a framework for activities by the Strasbourg group vis-à-vis the school on general issues but also to serve and assist members with practical matters. It has become the first port of call for information regarding the European School in Strasbourg.

Etoile Education is also determined, despite the distance, to be actively involved in the school activities. Main events included:

1. Fête du Rhin – 23-24 September 2006
2. Salon des associations – 7-8 October 2006
3. Primary school Sports day – 10 October 2006
4. Bonfire night – 11 November 2006
5. TV3 report – 12 December 2006
6. Club Presse Strasbourg – 31 January 2007
7. ESK Admin meeting – 8 February 2007
8. GUDEE meeting, Brussels– 10 February 2007
9. Council of Europe Schools info day – 14 March 2007
10. ESK Open Day – 24 March 2007
11. GUDEE meeting, Brussels– 21 April 2007
12. EU Parliament Open Day – 1 May 2007
13. Sponsored Bike Ride –5 May 2007
14. European Picnic, Fête des Deux Rives – 20 May 2007
15. GUDEE meeting, Brussels– 2 June 2007

Etoile Education thanks everyone for their efforts and contributions into making every single one of these successful, in particular the school's contribution to the European Parliament Open Day and our annual Sponsored Bike Ride which raised over 3,500 Euros. We would especially like to thank Elio Sanzillo and the directors of Primary school without which it would have been impossible. We would also like to thank our sponsors for their generous support:

Weinerberg Bricks- "Building Value"

TI Automotive Technology Center GmbH – "the Flow of Good Ideas"

L'Union Syndicale Fédérale (USF) – "Unity and Solidarity with the World of Work"

Schaeffler Group – "Creative Technology"

Amicale of the Council of Europe

And prizes donated by:

EUROPA PARK – Themepark and attractions

Galerie Lafayette Gourmet – Top gourmet food providers

Société Générale – Corporate & Investment Banking

It was with great pride in our school that we read the results of the Van Dijk evaluation and welcome the Board of Governor's decision to confirm that the European School, Karlsruhe will remain a full European School. We know that this is the strong foundation needed in order to extend European schooling closer to Strasbourg and we look forward to rapid progress being made from now on. Our special thanks go to Mr. Hoyem for his never-failing determination and faith in the European School, its mission and the best interests of each child. We look forward to his continued leadership and enthusiasm.

We welcome the decision by the Board of Governors, at its meeting in Lisbon on 17-18 April, to ask the Mr. Hoyem to make a proposal to their October meeting on the possibility of an annex which would be located in Kehl and provide primary classes for children living in France as well as Germany. To assess the viability of such an initiative, the Council of Europe conducted a survey amongst its staff and diplomatic corps to evaluate the level of demand. Etoile Education did so among the wider international and local community and have passed on its results to the Council of Europe.

We also welcome the decision by the Board of Governors to ask for recommendations by January 2008 on fee levels and policy on fees. We hereby, officially ask to be involved in this exercise, as well as any others pertaining to Fees and Categories, as we have on several occasions raised these issues (see annex I) including at the last meeting of this Admin Board. We strongly feel that Category II members of all European School have a valuable contribution to make to this discussion and in addition, should have greater representation in these working groups and at other levels especially when we play a ever increasing role in the financial burden sharing.

Over the last few years Etoile Education has seen a number of its students decide to live in Karlsruhe during the last two years of the Baccalaureate which is only natural. We are looking forward to, and ready to help with, a more stable offer of weekly boarding accommodation to be made available as soon as possible.