

Petition November 2013

Secondary Cycle organisation

Dear parents,

As you have heard by now, a proposal for the (re)organisation of **studies in the secondary cycle** (S1 to S7) has been the subject of discussion in various working groups and official committees mandated by the Board of Governors of the European school (the decision making body of the European Schools). Interparents, on which parents of pupils attending both European Schools in Luxembourg are represented, has engaged – and continues to engage – fully with these discussions. Unfortunately their concerns, and particularly, concrete suggestions they have been making, are not being given the consideration due. A vote on (parts of) the proposal is now set to take place at the next Board of Governors meeting on the 3-5 December.

The Parents' Associations of the European Schools in different locations, separately, as well as together also through Interparents, want to have a **proper impact assessment of the whole of the proposal** before it (or even parts of it) is approved. The concern is that the (re)organisation could impact negatively on the pedagogical high standards of the broadbased curriculum which lends value to the European Baccalaureate, the value of which must be preserved.

The Brussels and Luxembourg Parents' Associations have put together a **petition** which will be presented before the Board of Governors meeting. The petition has now been extended to include ALL European Schools.

We recommend that you read about the proposed reform (see background and links below, including documents containing FR and DE versions of the petition and background information on this). If you share the concerns – or even some of the concerns expressed in the petition – **please sign it at:** <http://www.schoolsponsoring.nl/espotion>

The deadline is this Friday 29th November.

DE and FR versions : [Petition_DE.pdf](#) / [Petition_FR.pdf](#)

The Parents' Associations – APEEEL1 and APEEEL2 – of the European Schools – Lux 1 and Lux 2 – in Luxembourg.

1 - The Proposal

It is proposed that the reform of the European School secondary studies curriculum (S1 to S7) will take effect from September 2014. S2 pupils would be the first to take the BAC under the new system but even older secondary pupils and former students will have disadvantages should a reform which is not well thought-out result in damage to the reputation of the European Baccalaureate. In other words, the reform concerns you all.

Several of the provisions are particularly worrying:

- the restructuring of S6 and S7 options into "filières", which are rigidly conceived and may not meet all national university requirements;
- the introduction in S6 and S7 of general sciences and humanities studies, in lieu of more specialised and widely-recognized two-hour courses;
- modifications to S4 and S5 mathematics courses;
- the teaching of religion and ethics in L2 starting in S3;
- amendments to the European School mission, which may affect future enrollment beyond S5.

Documents In French (EN and DE to follow)

[2013-09-D-17-fr-3-Propositionétudessecondaire.pdf](#)
[2013-09-D-17-fr-3-Annexel-PropositionOrganisationsecondaire.pdf](#)
[2013-09-D-17-fr-3AnnexII+GTOrganisationnactuelle.pdf](#)

A video about the reform can be found below. It is a presentation of the proposed changes by the deputy Secretary General of the European Schools, Mr Marcheggiano given on Monday the 18/11 between 12h45 -14h30:

<https://scic.ec.europa.eu/streaming/index.php?es=2&sessionno=b65f2ecd2900ba6ae49a14d9c4b16fb4>

Updated Interparents' reports can be accessed at: <http://www.interparents.eu/report.php>

2 - Alternative Proposal of Interparents (which regroups all European School Parents' Associations)

A working group of the Uccle parent representatives has come up with an alternative proposal, based on analysis of both the cost implications of what the European Schools have been offering and student choices over the recent years. The alternative proposal has been supported by **Interparents**, the umbrella organisation for all European School Parents' Associations.

The alternative Proposal can be found here: [Secondary school studies InterparentsX 2013](#)

3 - The Petition

Unfortunately, the alternative proposal and dissenting opinions, including those of teachers and inspectors, have been largely ignored by decision makers. More worrying, the official proposal looks set to be adopted at the 3-5 December Board of Governors meeting, despite the lack of an adequate financial and pedagogical impact assessment or a consideration of alternatives.

The Brussels and Luxembourg Parents' Associations have worked to create a petition laying out parents' concerns about the proposed secondary studies reform. **The aim of the petition is to urge Member States and the Commission to demand a proper impact assessment at the 3-5 December Board of Governors Meeting.**

A proper and impartial assessment would meet the following criteria:

- Must assess the financial and societal/pedagogical impact of the proposed reform as well as its impact on university admissions and mobility to/from Member States;
- Must take into account the full secondary cycle from S1 to S7;
- Must use the Proportionality Principle ("the content and form of the action must be in keeping with the aim pursued") to consider the current system, the proposed system and alternative proposals, and must consider the necessity for secondary reform in the light of alternative cost saving measures already implemented or planned ;
- Must be based on statistically reliable and verifiable data only;
- Must be monitored by a steering group that includes parent, teacher and student representatives.