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Revision of the Regulations relating to reimbursement of expenses in the event of travel on official business by members of the Board of Governors, members of the Preparatory Committees, members of the Complaints Board, representatives of the Parents' Associations and other persons invited to the European Schools (Baccalaureate examiners, experts, etc.)

Approved by the Board of Governors on 5, 6 and 7 December 2023 in Brussels

Cancels and replaces document 2014-04-D-15-en-1.

Entry into force: 1st January 2024

Article 1

The members of the Board of the Governors, the members of the Preparatory Committees, the judges who are members of the Complaints Board, the representatives of the Parents' Associations and other persons who are invited to meetings or other official events by the European Schools or by the General Secretariat, hereinafter called 'persons travelling on official business', shall be entitled, in accordance with the following provisions, to reimbursement of travel costs and to daily allowances.

All the costs entailed by accreditation and its effects, without reservation or exception, shall be borne solely by the Accredited European School.

Those costs shall correspond to:

- a. the travel and subsistence expenses of the inspectors sent by the European Schools. They will be defrayed on the basis of a mission order and under the same conditions as when inspectors carry out a mission on behalf of the European Schools;
- b. the expenditure incurred by staff or representatives of Accredited European Schools in attending the in-service training courses or meetings organised by the European Schools.

Article 2

Travel on official business shall take place on the basis of a written invitation or of a written travel order issued by the Secretary-General or by a person authorised by him/her.

The reason for and the place and the expected length of the official event shall in particular be indicated in the letter of invitation.

All experts shall be entitled to the reimbursement of their travel expenses from the place specified in their invitation (work or home address) to the place of the meeting, by the most appropriate means of transport given the distance involved.

Article 3

1. Travel expenses shall be reimbursed on the basis of:
 - first-class travel by **rail** by the customary shortest and most cost-effective route between the place of origin mentioned in the notice of the meeting/event and the place of the meeting/event, on presentation of the rail ticket;
 - the costs of seat reservation, of transportation of baggage and of supplements for fast trains, on presentation of the invoice.The cost of tickets for high-speed trains such as EUROSTAR, THALYS or TGV will be reimbursed if they are actually used for the journey.
2. The costs of **travel by boat** shall be refunded on presentation of supporting documents. The costs of transportation of a car by boat will not be refunded.

3. If a private **car** is used for the journey, costs shall be reimbursed on the basis at the rate of EUR 0.22 per km.

If two or more persons convened who are entitled to reimbursement of travel expenses travel together in one car, only the car owner will be reimbursed, although at the rate of 150%.

Parking charges, tolls and other charges will not be reimbursed.

4. The costs of **air travel** shall be reimbursable if the distance between the place of origin and the place of the meeting/event amounts to more than 400 km in rail kilometres or if a sea crossing is involved.

On presentation of the ticket, the advertised cost of the air fare, up to a maximum of the air fare in economy class, will be reimbursed.

Travel expenses will be reimbursed on presentation of original supporting documents: tickets and invoices or, in the case of online bookings, the printout of the electronic reservation and boarding cards for the outward journey. The documents supplied must show the class of travel used, the time of travel and the amount paid.

5. The costs of taxi rides will not be reimbursed.

6. The costs of use of local means of transport at the place of origin and at the place of the meeting/event will not be reimbursed. They must be defrayed out of the daily subsistence allowance.

Article 4

Should persons travelling on official business suffer personal injury (psychological or physical) or damage to property while travelling to or staying at the place to which they have been convened, no claims may be made against the European Schools and their organs, unless such injury or damage was caused by them.

Persons travelling on official business who use their own cars to travel shall remain fully liable for any accidents.

Article 5

Persons travelling on official business shall be entitled to reimbursement of subsistence expenses, in so far as there is provision for payment of such an allowance in the letter of invitation and as a comparable reimbursement is not granted to them by any other organisation or person.

The flat-rate reimbursement shall cover all travel and subsistence expenses at the place to which such persons have been convened, including the costs of accommodation, meals and transportation.

The amount of the daily allowance payable shall be EUR 206,32 per meeting day and shall be granted as follows:

In the event of absence from the place of origin

for 6 hours or less: no reimbursement,

for 6-12 hours: half the daily allowance,

for 12-24 hours: the daily allowance,
for 24-36 hours: 1.5 times the daily allowance,
for 36-48 hours: twice the daily allowance,
for 48-60 hours: 2.5 times the daily allowance, and so on.

The travelling time by private car is calculated based on the corresponding travelling time by rail and/or by using an appropriate software.

Should the distance between the place of origin mentioned in the notice of the meeting/event and the place of the meeting/event be more than 50 km but less than 100 km, travel and subsistence expenses shall only be reimbursed if the person travelling on official business was unable to return home and can prove that overnight accommodation expenditure was incurred.

In all other cases a flat-rate expenses allowance of EUR 48 per meeting day shall be granted.

Article 6

Subsistence expenses shall likewise be refunded in the following cases:

- (a) if the person referred to in Article 1 cannot leave the place of the meeting/event because of unusual circumstances;
- (b) if he/she cannot return to his/her place of origin because of the short time period between two meetings;
- (c) if a special fare were used for the journey because of which a specific number of days has to be spent at the place of the meeting/event.

In cases (b) and (c), the total amount of this reimbursement may not exceed the amount of the rail fare referred to in Article 3. In case (c), the total amount shall mean the sum of the special fare and additional daily allowances.

Article 7

Proof of payment shall be attached to the application for reimbursement, which must be signed by the person travelling on official business, certifying that he/she is neither entitled to nor will receive a comparable reimbursement for the same journey or the same stay from any other organisation or person.

In addition, the person travelling on official business confirms with his/her signature that all the personal data given in the application for reimbursement, particularly the data concerning his/her bank account, are correct.

The application should, moreover, be signed by the secretary of the meeting, who thereby confirms the number of days' stay and the expenses of the person travelling on official business.

Article 8

The office responsible for processing applications for reimbursement may always check the information given in applications for reimbursement with the co-signatories. Unauthorised amounts paid will be reclaimed.

Article 9

Travel expenses will be reimbursed in EURO. Should expenses have been claimed in another currency, the conversion into EURO will be made at the exchange rate obtaining for budget transactions on the first day of the meeting. The refund will be a cashless transaction, involving a bank transfer.

EXPLANATORY ANNEX REGARDING THE APPLICATION OF ARTICLE 2 OF THESE REGULATIONS TO INSPECTORS

This annex seeks to outline how Article 2 of these regulations should be applied in the case of the reimbursement of travel and subsistence expenses to inspectors. Specific measures and explanation arising from this article are necessary in the case of inspectors, for the following reasons.

- i. Inspectors' visits to schools are planned typically in consultation with the Office of the Secretary-General and payment of the expenses lies ultimately with the Central Office.
- ii. The number of visits of inspectors can be very great and may sometimes have to be organised at short notice.
- iii. As guarantors of the pedagogical quality of the service rendered by the European Schools, the inspectors must be free to decide when and how often inspection visits to schools are required within the framework given by the agreed quality assurance policy and the budget forecasts.

Rules of Application:

Inspectors' visits to the Office of the Secretary-General for meetings of committees or working groups, in accordance with mandates given to these bodies by the Board of Governors or by one of the preparatory committees will, as envisaged in Article 2 of the Regulations, be on the basis of a written invitation or of a written travel order issued by the Secretary General or by a person authorised by him/her.

Inspection visits to the schools may be decided upon by the inspectors themselves. Such visits should normally be notified to the Central Office at least two weeks in advance. No individual written invitation from the Secretary-General will be required for such visits. For inspection visits to schools, therefore, this annex may be considered as constituting the written invitation referred to in Article 2. If, for a reason which (s)he considers valid, an inspector is unable to give two weeks' notice of an inspection visit to a school, (s)he should notify the Office as soon as possible. Inspectors are asked, as far as is compatible with the purpose of their visit, to use the cheapest available tickets for air travel subject to Article 3 of this document.

Other than the visits mentioned above, i.e. those arising from inspections or formal mandates, no payment of expenses will normally be permitted.

It should be said, however, that the term 'inspection' need not be interpreted as referring solely to class visits to teachers but may cover such events as meetings with parents or meetings with teachers/school managements to discuss relevant issues.