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Report of the Chair of the Budgetary Committee of the European Schools under the Croatian Presidency - 2021-2022 school year

Approved by the Board of Governors of the European Schools

Meeting on 6,7 & 8 December 2022 – Brussels (Hybrid)

The entire Croatian Presidency team wishes to thank very much to the members of the Committee, the teams and the managerial staff of the Office of the Secretary-General, who enabled the task assigned to the Presidency during the 2021-2022 school year to be successfully carried out. Our sincerest thanks also goes to the teams of translators and interpreters, who maintain multilingualism in the system in a remarkable way, and to the IT teams, without whom this Committee's work could not have been done in the particular context of the pandemic during the 2021-2022 school year since all the meetings have been organized on-line.

Under the Rules of Procedure, the Budgetary Committee's main responsibilities are to: (a) address all budgetary and financial questions and take decisions on them within the framework of the total budget approved by the Board of Governors; (b) address administrative and legal questions requiring a decision of the Board of Governors and express an opinion for the latter's benefit; (c) define the general budgetary objectives for Type I schools and evaluate their implementation by the schools; and (d) report annually to the Board of Governors.

Within that framework, during the 2021-2021 school year, the Budgetary Committee convened on 9 and 10 November 2021 and on 9 and 10 March 2022. The occurrence of the Covid-19 pandemic prevented the holding of physical meetings but the responsiveness of the Office of the Secretary-General in deploying virtual meeting tools enabled the Budgetary Committee to convene remotely in very good conditions.

At those meetings, the Budgetary Committee considered and discussed a large number of matters. The decisions and results of those discussions are set out in the documents produced by the Office of the Secretary-General (2021-11-D-17 and 2022-03-D-10).

1. The Budgetary Committee successfully completed its usual work of preparation of the decisions of the Board of Governors:

- Approved the Training Policy on the provision of Educational Support and Inclusive Education in the European Schools. The Budgetary Committee highlighted that the financial impacts are neutral concerning the 2021 and 2022 budgets.
- Favourable opinion on granting the discharge to the Secretary-General, as Authorizing Officer of the European Schools, and to the Administrative Boards for their respective responsibilities in the implementation of the 2020 budget.
- Took note of the Annual Activity Report of the Secretary General for the year 2021 and of the Annual Activity Report of the OSG for the year 2021.
- Favourable opinion on the proposal for a Multi-Annual Business Plan of the European Schools System for 2022-2024, the Annual Plan 2022 for the OSG, Multi Annual ICT Plan for the European Schools for 2022-2026.
- Favourable opinion for the preliminary draft budget for 2023.
- Favourable opinion on the Roles, Duties and Work-Frame Psychologists in the ES so the future psychologists' posts shall be included in the overall limits of AAS posts' creations, based on the estimate increase in pupils' numbers.
- Positive opinion on the proposal for a "Pupils' Well-Being Policy Framework of the European Schools" and Recommendations of the "Child Protection Policy" Working Group.
- Supported the proposal of the Enrolment of the Ukrainian pupils in the ES System.

2. Initiatives and results of the Croatian Presidency in the Budgetary Committee's area of competence

Croatia continued the work that has been started by the previous French presidency. In the priority related to the administrative and financial structure of the European Schools, special emphasis was placed on the development of the 2nd Multi Annual Plan of the European Schools, the revision of the Cost Sharing Agreement and Attractiveness Package for members of the teaching staff with further work on centralizing certain activities and simplifying procedures.

Results:

- The work of the 'Simplification' Working Group continued.
- Multi-Annual Business Plan of the European Schools System for 2022-2024 was adopted.
- The Financial Regulations were approved.
- Harmonized procedure for the reimbursement of national emoluments of staff seconded to the European School of Munich were approved.
- Evaluation Procedure for members of the Schools' Middle Management was approved.

The Croatian Presidency would like to thank most sincerely to everybody for the support and cooperation during the Presidency year.

Croatia wishes the Irish Presidency every success.

Katarina Grgec

Opinion of the Budgetary Committee

The Budgetary Committee took note of the report and thanked the Croatian Presidency for the very good work completed and called upon the Board of Governors to adopt it.

Opinion of the Board of Governors

The Board of Governors took note of and approved the report of the Croatian Chair of the Budgetary Committee for the 2021-2022 school year.