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## **Report of the Chair of the Budgetary Committee of the European Schools under the Irish Presidency - 2022- 2023 school year**

Approved by the Board of Governors 05 - 07 December 2023 – Hybrid meeting - Brussels

*The entire Irish Presidency team wishes to thank the members of the Committee, the teams and the managerial staff of the Office of the Secretary-General, who supported the work of the Presidency team during the 2022-2023 school year.*

*We are grateful to all for their contributions, support, and efforts to help us ensure it was a successful Presidency.*

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 2022-2023 school year, the Budgetary Committee convened on 9 and 10 November 2022 and on 8 and 9 March 2023. At those meetings, the Budgetary Committee considered and discussed a large number of matters. A full record of the decisions and the discussions is set out in the meeting record documents 2022-11-D-08 and 2023-03-D-19.

The Irish Presidency was the first Presidency since the commencement of the Covid-19 pandemic to be able to facilitate in-person meetings of the Budgetary Committee. We were pleased to see the return of delegates to the meeting room, but also to continue to be able to facilitate delegates to participate in virtual format.

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

Over the course of the academic year, the Budgetary Committee prepared for decisions of the Board of Governors in the following areas:

*It examined matters related to the financial oversight, financial planning and budgetary process of the system and:*

- provided a favourable opinion on the amendment to the 2023 Budget of the European Schools
- expressed a favourable opinion on the overall draft 2024 budget of the European Schools, while noting some the need for some adjustments.
- provided a favourable opinion on the adoption of Annual Report 2022 of IAS.
- took note of the proposed audit topics for 2023-25 and expressed a favourable opinion on the prolongation of the IAS mandate for a period of three years, starting from 1 July 2023.
- expressed an overall favourable opinion on the discharge to the Secretary-General, as authorising office of the European schools, and to the Administrative Boards for their respective responsibilities in the implementation of the 2021 budget.
- welcomed the Global Annual Activity Report 2022 of the OSG and welcomed and gave a favourable opinion on the Annual Plan 2023 for the OSG.

- called for changes to the Proposal for an amended Cost Sharing Agreement, before it was presented to the Board of Governors, where it was ultimately agreed.

*It considered reports and proposals related to administrative and school management matters, and:*

- gave a favourable opinion on the draft report on the European Bacculaureate; on the update to the European Bacculaureate fees; and supported the creation of a Task Force to look into the suspension of secondary teaching during the Bacculaureate oral exam period.
- expressed a favourable opinion on the proposal around the online correction of the Pre-bacculaureate and Bacculaureate examinations.
- issued a favourable opinion on the My School SMS report.
- provided a positive opinion on the Statistical Report on the Provision of Educational Support and Inclusive Education in the European Schools in the school year 2021 – 2022.
- fully supported the proposal of the Administration Board of the European School, Alicante, to include Spanish Language in the set of L2 offered in the school.
- expressed a favourable opinion on the continuation of the Latvian and Slovakian language sections in the secondary cycle of the European School, Brussels 1.
- provided qualified support on the proposal for the revision of the 'Internal Structures' of the European Schools

*It examined proposals related to Human Resources, and:*

- provided a favourable opinion on the 'New and discontinued seconded posts in nursery, primary and secondary cycles for the school year 2022-23.'
- indicated a generally favourable opinion on the AAS Working Groups, but noted the reservations of some delegations.
- indicated a favourable opinion on the implementing rules for the evaluation and progression of members of the AAS of the European Schools
- gave a favourable opinion on the proposal to create a seconded post of Central Co-ordinator for CPD and a seconded post of Educational Data Analyst.
- generally support the proposal to amend the regulation for Members of the Seconded Staff of the European Schools to change the method of reimbursement of removal costs, and advised that a review of the new method be carried out after two years of its entry into force.
- expressed a favourable opinion on the amendment to Article 59.4 of the Regulations for Member of Seconded Staff concerning the interpretation of the European territory of Member States; and to an extension of the period for requesting the resettlement allowance for seconded staff from one to three years.
- unanimously expressed favourable opinion of the current solidarity levy.
- expressed a favourable opinion on a simplified procedure for the interpretation of the national salary slips by the Member States.

*It considered other proposal for the system, and:*

- expressed a favourable opinion on the framework for the enrolment of Ukrainian pupils.
- supported the proposal to adjust the flat-rate fee provided to the Judges of the Complaints Board and the amendment to Article 16.2 of the Statute of the Complaints Board.
- expressed a favourable opinion on the amendments to the General Rules related to safety and security and agreed that the proposal should be transmitted to the Board of Governors for approval.

In addition, the Budgetary Committee took decisions to:

- approve updates to the Mandate of the 'Induction of new Teachers' Working Group
- approve the procedures for in-service training for first and second correctors of written European Baccalaureate examinations

## **2. Initiatives of the Irish Presidency in the Budgetary Committee's area of competence**

The Irish Presidency of the European Schools set four priorities for its Presidency:

1. Cultivating individual and collective reflective practice among teachers in the ES system
2. Nurturing and celebrating active citizenship among young people in the secondary cycle in the ES system
3. Progressing the integration of the Accredited European Schools in the European School system
4. Furthering the work on simplification in the European Schools' system.

### *Progress relevant to the Budgetary Committee's competence:*

Ireland was pleased to retain a focus on the Simplification Process, which had initially been started by the French Presidency and further developed during the Croatian Presidency. During Ireland's Presidency, agreement was reached on a detailed action plan developed by the OSG, which sets out reforms in process in the areas of budget (including procurement, invoicing and payroll), human resources (including harmonisation and centralisation of some processes, as well as a platform to digitise some functions) and digitalisation (including digitisation of signatures and credentials, as well as the identification of a structure and workflow for the IT Strategy group). We look forward to continued progress in this area of work in the system and to seeing the agreed actions being implemented.

The number of Accredited European Schools has grown exponentially. In the period from 2016 to June 2022, the number of children and young people enrolled in the AES has almost doubled. As a result of Ireland's third priority, a previously established working group was re-activated to explore the needs, required supports, and further integration of the AES into the ES system. This group, chaired by the Secretary-General, includes various stakeholders from across the system. It met on a number of occasions during the Irish Presidency to look specifically at themes such as cost-sharing, the future structure of Brussels' European Schools, quality assurance and compliance, participation and access of the AES, and CPD for teachers.

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Ireland wishes every success to all involved in the Italian Presidency in the year ahead.

Dr. Leo Kilroy  
Chair of the Budgetary Committee of the European Schools, 2022 - 23  
Permanent Representation of Ireland to the European Union

### **Budgetary Committee**

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

### **Board of Governors**

The Board of Governors took note of and approved the report of the Irish Chair of the Budgetary Committee for the 2022-2023 school year.