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## **Report of the Chair of the Budgetary Committee of the European Schools under the Italian Presidency - 2023- 2024 school year**

Board of Governors of the European Schools

Meeting on 3, 4 and 5 December 2024 – Brussels (Hybrid)

*The entire Italian Presidency team wishes to thank the members of the Committee, the teams and the staff of the Office of the Secretary-General, who supported the Presidency team during the 2023-2024 school year, but also the many working groups which are so keenly focusing on new proposals in order to enhance the system and make it more valuable, effective and efficient.*

*Our sincerest thanks also go to the teams of translators and interpreters and to the IT teams.*

*We are grateful for each contribution, support, and effort made to help us ensure it was a meaningful 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 2023-2024 school year, the Budgetary Committee met twice, on 7 and 8 November 2023 and on 5 and 6 March 2024. At those meetings, the Budgetary Committee considered and discussed a large number of matters. The conclusions of the Budgetary Committee can be found in documents 2023-11-D-17 and 2024-03-D-13.

Following the same approach of the Irish Presidency, we continued with in-person meetings of the Budgetary Committee, nonetheless facilitating delegates requiring participating in virtual format.

The agenda of the November 2023 meeting was quite full, and the related discussions were particularly enriching, not only with reference to the preliminary works of the Budgetary Committee in preparation of the decisions of the Board of Governors, but also with a particular focus on specific and new items.

As already mentioned, many points connected to the same structure and working of the European School system were discussed. Due to specific reasons, the only decision in the agenda, concerning the annual updated interpretation of National salary slips, was actually converted to a written procedure. Among the opinions, the following topics were particularly discussed:

- the new and discontinued seconded posts in the nursery, primary and secondary cycles for the 2024-2025 school year;
- the clarification of the Regulations for Seconded Staff regarding the calculation of EU Taxes;
- new formulations in the text of the Regulations for Members of the Seconded Staff of the European Schools, the Service Regulations for the Locally Recruited Teachers in the European Schools, and the Service Regulations for Locally Recruited Managerial Staff of the European Schools concerning the remuneration of the staff members;
- an analysis of the impact of the remuneration of the dependent children on the family allowance, with the subsequent removal of Article 52(2)(b) of the Regulations for Members of the Seconded Staff;
- the 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' Association and other persons invited to the European Schools.

The agenda included also a set of topics that, in our opinion, attests that the European School system is growing according to the principles of quality assurance and inclusion.

I am referring to the discussions revolving around the Accredited European Schools, the enrolment of Ukrainian pupils in the European Schools in the 2024-2025 school year, the changes and reports on the admission policy of the ES Munich, the situation of the Dutch language section in the same institution, the creation of a Slovenian language section at the European School Brussels I, the revision of the language policy of the European Schools.

The March 2024 meeting was equally rich in topics and discussions. Many of the opinions in the agenda were connected to the recurring appointments of the Budgetary Committee, such as the discharge to the Secretary-General, as Authorising Officer of the European Schools, and to the Administrative Boards for their respective responsibilities in the implementation of the 2022 budget, the New/Converted/Discontinued Administrative and Ancillary Staff (AAS) posts, the evaluation of the Global Annual Activity Report 2023; of the Annual Activity Report 2023 of the OSG; of the Annual Plan 2024 for OSG, of the Annual Report 2023 of the IAS.

However, on that same occasion, great attention was given to the most financially relevant items, many of which are connected to challenges within the European system itself. While discussing the preliminary draft 2025 Budget of the European School, for example, the debate also focused on the efforts for budget limitation within a frame of rising costs, as well as on the current trends of locally recruited teachers and seconded teachers. Similarly, the discussion on cost sharing and the envisaged voluntary contribution brought up the question of efficiency of the system and solidarity among the Member States.

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Italy wishes every success to all involved in the Cypriot Presidency in the year ahead and thanks everyone once again for the collaboration.

Dr. Fabio Apuzzo  
Chair of the Budgetary Committee of the European Schools, 2023 - 2024

**Budgetary Committee**

The Budgetary Committee took note of the report and thanked the Italian Presidency and called upon the Board of Governors to adopt it.

**Board of Governors**

The Board of Governors took note of the report of the Italian Chair of the Budgetary Committee for the 2023-2024 school year.