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Report of the Chair of the Budgetary Committee of the European Schools under the Cypriot Presidency - 2024- 2025 school year

Board of Governors, meeting on 9, 10 and 11 December 2025 – Brussels
(Hybrid)

The entire Cypriot Presidency team wishes firstly to thank the members of the Budgetary Committee, the Secretary General, his team and all the managerial staff of the Office of the Secretary-General, who supported the Presidency team during the 2024-2025 school year. Secondly, we would like to express our gratitude to all the working groups who were so keenly focused on new proposals in order to enhance the system and make it more valuable, effective and efficient.

We also appreciate the assistance of the translator and interpreter's team and the IT team who supported the meetings during the Cypriot Presidency period.

We are grateful for all the contributions, support, and efforts made to help us ensure it was a meaningful, productive and value-added 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.
- d) report annually to the Board of Governors.

Within that framework, during the 2024-2025 school year, the Budgetary Committee met twice, on 5 and 6 November 2024 and on 11th and 12th of March 2025. At those meetings, the Committee considered and discussed numerous matters. The conclusions of the Budgetary Committee can be found in documents **2024 -11-D-5** and **2025-03-D-17-2**. Meetings were held in person, while also allowing virtual and hybrid participation.

1. The Budgetary Committee successfully prepared the documents and discussed the following issues (not an exhaustive list), before the submission to the Board of Governors for decision

November 2024 Meeting Overview

The November 2024 meeting comprised of a diverse range of agenda items. The ensuing discussions proved to be particularly enriching, offering valuable insights not only for the preliminary work undertaken by the Budgetary Committee in advance of the Board of Governors' decisions, but also by placing a distinct emphasis on specific and emerging issues. These deliberations contributed significantly to the Committee's ongoing efforts to address both established matters and novel challenges within the European School system.

It should be noted that the only **item for decision** was concerning the annual updated interpretation of National salary slips, where the Budgetary Committee adopted the updated interpretation of national salary slips. This will be the basis for the calculation of the salaries of seconded staff of all the Schools and the Office of the Secretary-General with effect as of 1st January 2025.

Furthermore, the Budgetary Committee **took note** of the oral communication concerning the voluntary contribution and target 25/26 in relation to the Cost Sharing Agreement as well as the advance draft report of the Court of Auditors for the financial year 2023.

*The Budgetary Committee provided careful consideration and expressed formal opinions on a range of topics essential to the structure and functioning of the European School system, and in particular expressed a **positive opinion** on :*

- the modifications proposed to the 2025 Budget of the European School and took note of the reservations entered by some delegations
- the creation and suppression of seconded post for the 2025-2026 school year
- the Preliminary report of the Working Group for the Review of the Financial Regulation
- the Simplification of a) Update of the Action Plan and b) Amendment of the AAS Regulations
- support for the proposed amendments for members of the Seconded Staff of the ES
- the Structure of the Brussels European Schools' as decided by the Board of Governors in December 2022 Report of the Brussels Steering Committee

The November 2024 agenda included a diverse array of subjects that collectively demonstrate the **ongoing progress of the European School system**. These matters reinforce the system's commitment to upholding quality assurance and fostering inclusive practices for all students. The comprehensive discussion and decisions taken reflected a structured approach towards continuous improvement, ensuring that the principles of quality and inclusion remain central to every aspect of the Schools' operations.

Furthermore, favourable **opinions** were given on the following matters:

- support for the proposal to gradually phase out the Dutch language section as of the 2025/26 school year in the European School Munich Report of the European School Munich Working Group
- agreed on the gradual creation of a Romanian language section at the European School Luxembourg II as of the 2025/2026 school
- the Draft Framework for the Enrolment of Ukrainian Pupils in the European Schools in the 2025-2026 School Year
- the Revision of the Mandate of the IT Strategy Working Group
- the Proposal for a new formula for the budgeting of IT pedagogical equipment in the European Schools
- the Quality Assurance in the Accredited European Schools & Regulations on the Accredited European Schools
- the Request for the centralisation of the INTERMATH project at the Office of the Secretary-General
- the Proposal regarding the suspension of secondary lessons during European Baccalaureate oral examinations
- support for the Proposal for the Organisation of Classes including pupils with Intensive Support A.

- the appointment for the first time of a Chief examiner for the European Baccalaureate written examinations
- the draft 2024 Baccalaureate Report

March 2025 Meeting Overview

The meeting held in March 2025 encompassed a broad range of topics and was marked by thorough and engaging discussions. Among the agenda items, **the subject of the Mission and Vision of the European Schools was specifically brought forward for consideration and debate.**

During this session, the Budgetary Committee focused its attention on several key areas, with particular emphasis on operational and financial matters. The committee members reviewed and expressed their opinions on these issues, addressing them as the primary items of business during the meeting.

The Committee also **expressed favourable opinion for the following:**

- 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 2023 budget
- the Evaluation of the *Global Annual Activity Report 2024*
- *The Annual Activity Report 2024 of the OSG*
- the *Multi Annual Plan 2025-2029 of the European Schools System*
- the *Annual Plan 2025 for OSG*
- *the Review of the centralised accounting model, merger of the position of Head Accountant and role of Accounting Correspondent and adequate positioning of the Senior Assistant to the Accounting Officer, with an entry into force on 1 January 2026*
- on the working group's report and on the proposal to extend the mandate of the working group for the review of the Financial Regulation

The Committee also **took note** of the Annual Report 2024 of the IAS

Moreover, the Budgetary Committee expressed **a favourable opinion on HR issues** and the day to day running of the ES and accredited Schools issues that are listed below:

- New/Converted/Discontinued Administrative and Ancillary Staff (AAS) posts – 2026-took note of the reservations (entered by the European Commission, The Netherlands, Sweden, Finland, EPO, Croatia and France, DEU) on the post creations and on the upgrade of three Assistants HoU at the OSG. The BC invited the OSG to produce a clear organizational chart of the OSG.
- on the proposal for the creation of a seconded post of Coordinator for Sustainability and Digital Education.
- on the proposals to increase the attractiveness of European Schools for locally recruited teachers
- on determination of the number of protected teaching functions for the 2025/26 school year

- on implementing the regulations for the appointment of Directors and Deputy Directors and on implementing the regulations for the evaluations of Directors and Deputy Directors
- the Educational Support Assistants in the European Schools – Profile, job description and working conditions
- the overall draft 2026 budget of the European Schools
- the Revision of School Fees
- the proposal for extending the total length of secondment of seconded teachers in case of a transfer to another European School
- the proposal for extending the length of secondment of the Deputy Director of finance and administration (DDFA)
- the European Schools Mobility Report
- the Annual ICT Report for the year 2024 & ICT Plan for 2025
- the Inclusion of Catalan among ONL and took note of the reservations expressed concerning the legal precedent and the financial impact of the proposal.
- concluded that the document on Mission and Vision should be further discussed in the next meeting of the Task Force on 13 March, before the finalised proposal will be submitted to the Board of Governors in April 2025. It was finally approved by the BoG in an extraordinary meeting on 30 June 2025.

2. Priorities of the Cyprus Presidency

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

1. Improving teachers' working environment & well-being (completed)
2. Fostering school culture of respect, safety & participation (to be completed June 2026)
3. Promoting education for sustainable development (to be completed Dec 2026)
4. Strengthening governance of the system (completed)

The Cypriot team is very pleased that we brought into completion some of our priorities and achieved good progress in ensuring that the remaining priorities will be implemented in the forthcoming year.

Cyprus would like to thank again everybody for their collaboration during our presidency period and wishes every success to all those involved in the Latvian Presidency in the year ahead.

Mrs Marianna Manouchou Aspri
Mrs Maria Gregoriou Mean
Chairs of the Budgetary Committee of the European Schools, 2024- 2025

Opinion of the Budgetary Committee

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

The Board of Governors

The Board of Governors took note of the report of the Cypriot Chair of the Budgetary Committee for the 2024-2025 school year.