



Schola Europaea / Office of the Secretary-General  
Administrative Unit

Brussels, 1<sup>st</sup> of September 2026  
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**For the attention of the Members of the  
European Schools' Community**

Dear Members of the European Schools' Community,

As we embark on a new school year, I want to extend my warmest greetings to all of you. In my role as Secretary-General of the European Schools, I wish all of us a good and successful start, especially our new pupils, staff members and their families.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome new Directors at four 'traditional' European Schools. At the European School Alicante, Ms Carole Lemarié will take over the position of Director from Mr Giancarlo Marcheggiano. At the European School Bergen, Mr Peter Garry will take over the position of Mr Per Frithiofson. At the European School Luxembourg I, Ms Ariane Farinelle will take over the position from Mr Martin Wedel. Finally at the European School Varese, Ms Zdravka Grđan will take over the position left vacant by Ms Ariane Farinelle. I wish all these colleagues great success with the support of all of us and thank the outgoing Directors for their strong commitment and leadership over the past years.

Reflecting on the past school year, I would describe it as one of implementation and further consolidation.

Under the Latvian Presidency, the European Schools continued implementing the ambitious [Action Plan](#) that had already been approved under the Italian Presidency in April 2024 in response to the European Parliament's [Resolution](#), '*The system of the European Schools: state of play, challenges and perspective*'. We also placed strong emphasis on implementing the '[Mission and Vision of the European Schools](#)', approved in June 2025 under the Cyprus Presidency.

The European Schools' 'Teachers' Forum', established under the Italian Presidency in 2024, was held for the third time in April 2026 and has now become an integral part of our system, allowing pedagogical professionals from 'traditional' European Schools, Accredited European Schools and national schools to exchange best practices. Moreover, the European Schools, this time joined by the Accredited European Schools, also took part in spring 2026 for the second time in the PISA for Schools assessment, and I look forward to analysing and discussing the results at system and school level in the coming months.

Under the Lithuanian Presidency, essentially covering the 2026/27 school year, we will continue to focus on implementing the remaining actions from the 2024 Action Plan. Among other things, addressing salary discrepancies in the teaching area and revising the salary scheme of administrative staff. At the same time, we will continue to review the governance in the pedagogical area and

navigate new opportunities but also challenges raised by the ethical use of Artificial Intelligence in education, in compliance with the AI Act.

A further goal, already set out under the previous Latvian Presidency, will be to strengthen the visibility of our unique school system in education in Europe. I am convinced that Lithuania, also holding the Presidency of the European Council as of 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2027, will make a significant contribution to this goal.

The visibility of the European Schools is increasingly linked to the Accredited European Schools, which contribute significantly to the growth of our unique system. Their further expansion and integration remain a key objective, and I am dedicated to fostering new forms of cooperation between the European Schools and national schools, as envisaged in our vision.

I am aware that pursuing all these priorities comes with resource implications. However, I am convinced that the sound financial management of the European Schools, confirmed by different audits, will allow us to move forward on most of these priorities despite the budgetary constraints we will continue to face in the coming school year.

Finally, I wish all of us a smooth (re)entry and a successful and inspiring new school year 2026/27!

Yours sincerely,



Andreas BECKMANN  
Secretary-General