

Brussels, 22 DEC. 2011  
Ares (2011)

*Dear Mrs Schriever and Hahn,*

*As I promised in my letter of 31 October 2011, the Commission has carried out a very detailed analysis of the potential consequences of the request made in your petition which you addressed to me on 14 October 2011. The Secretary General of the European Schools and her staff contributed as well in detailing the financial and organisational aspects of the analysis*

*Based on the results of this analysis and some very detailed discussions on the pedagogical and practical impact, I agreed that the Commission would request the issue to be debated in the Board of Governors of the European Schools, which is the intergovernmental decision making organisation of the European Schools. It assembles representatives from all the Member States, the Secretary General of the European Schools, the Commission and representatives from parents, directors, teachers and pupils.*

*In the meantime you also addressed your petition together with your arguments directly to all the members of the Board of Governors. They also received directly from the Secretary General her reply to you.*

*The Commission presented the request for the topic to be debated to the Board of Governors on 7 December. After an exchange of views, the vote was cast, which resulted in a single vote in favour (the Commission). The Secretary General and the deputy Secretary General were outspokenly against the proposition. The parents' representatives did not pronounce themselves during the debate.*

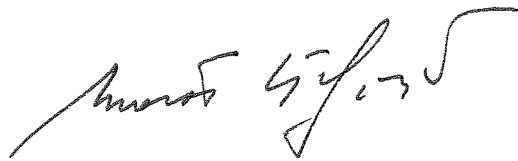
*I personally understand the importance of the location of the schools for all children and of course for the organisation of the daily lives of families. However, the European Schools' system operates in the framework of an intergovernmental cooperation between Member States and the Commission, with the infrastructure being provided by the host country. In the current context of budgetary restrictions and currently available infrastructure and resources, the system of the European Schools was not in a position to give favour to the requests in your petition.*

*Mrs Eva Schriever and Mrs Claudia Hahn: eeb4petition@gmail.com*

*The BoG also held a debate on the future fifth school in Brussels and its' language section structure. The issue of the overcrowding in Brussels I, II and III was also discussed and the Commission will now re-address the issue of the location of the fifth school.*

*In this context, I recently wrote to the newly designated Belgian Minister with the intent to launch the negotiations. I will keep you informed of any development and, in case of further evolution, I would propose the Board of governors to discuss it at its next meeting.*

*Yours sincerely,*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lambert Gijzen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.