



Schola Europaea / Office of the Secretary-General

European Baccalaureate Unit

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Conclusions of the extraordinary meeting of the Board of Inspectors (Secondary cycle) of the 29 May 2020 - Online

BACKGROUND

At its meeting of 15-17 April 2020 the Board of Governors decided, among others, with respect to the European Baccalaureate session 2020 the following:

1. **The written and oral examinations will not take place.** As a consequence, no written or oral mark will be taken into consideration for the calculation of the Final European Baccalaureate mark.
2. **The Final European Baccalaureate mark will be awarded based on A and B marks only.** The Final Mark will be calculated using the part of the Baccalaureate mark formula which does not make use of the marks to the oral and written exams.
3. **Moderation will intervene whenever the difference** in the distribution of final marks in comparison to previous years is statistically **relevant**.

Concerning the moderation process, the Office of the Secretary General has requested an external expertise to analyse data, quantify the difference in the distribution of final marks and eventually propose moderation methods to be applied on the results of the 2020 session, if necessary (*"whenever the difference in the distribution of final marks in comparison to previous years is statistically relevant"*).

This expertise was based on the European Baccalaureate results of the last 5 European Baccalaureate sessions (2015-2019).

As the outcome of the expertise was bound to be available by the 18 May 2020, it was requested to the President of the EB 2020 session, Prof. Enrique GUERRERO SALOM and to the President of the Board of Inspectors, Mr Javier GARRALÓN BARBA, to kindly agree on convening an extraordinary Board of Inspectors' meeting, in view of the possible application of any potential method of moderation to the 2020 EB results, and in order to discuss its modalities.

The extraordinary meeting of the Board of Inspectors (Secondary cycle) was held on Friday 29 May 2020.

Due to exceptional circumstances linked to the COVID-19 current situation, the Board of Inspectors (secondary cycle) was held online through the Teams platform.

The Spanish Presidency, represented by Mr GARRALÓN BARBA, opened the BIS's meeting and welcomed the members.

Mr GARRALÓN BARBA reminded the members of the instructions on how the online meeting would take place. He also recommended the members to switch off their microphone when not speaking, and to use the chat to request to take the floor.

Mr GARRALÓN BARBA also explains that this is an extraordinary meeting to talk about the moderation method for the European Baccalaureate marks and that the usual meeting will take place on the 15th June 2020.

I. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Board of Inspectors (Secondary) adopted the agenda.

	ITEMS	REFERENCES	ACTIONS EXPECTED BY B.I.S.
I.	ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA	2020-05-D-26-en-1	Decision
II.	ORAL COMMUNICATIONS	Oral G. MARCHEGGIANO	Take note
III.	FOLLOW-UP OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS 15-17 April 2020	Oral G. MARCHEGGIANO A. BECKMANN	Take note
IV.	PROPOSAL FOR THE MODERATION METHOD FOR THE EUROPEAN BACCALAUREATE MARKS IN LIGHT OF THE DECISION OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS ON 15-17 APRIL 2020	2020-05-D-27-en-1 E. RUDOMINO E. GUERRERO SALOM	Opinion
V.	ANY OTHER BUSINESS		

II. COMMUNICATIONS

(...)

III. FOLLOW-UP OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS 15-17 APRIL 2020

(...)

IV. Proposal for the moderation method for the European Baccalaureate marks in light of the decision of the Board of Governors on 15-17 April 2020

Mrs RUDOMINO introduced the point by explaining that the Board of Governors had mandated the Office of the Secretary-General to apply moderation on the European Baccalaureate final marks, if necessary (*"whenever the difference in the distribution of final marks in comparison to previous years is statistically relevant"*).

The Office of the Secretary-General appointed an external expert, (...), who was requested to produce a statistical report within the context of the potential moderation of the EB final results.

Mr MARCHEGGIANO introduced Mr Tamas JAKAB as being a former mathematics teacher of the European Schools system. Mr MARCHEGGIANO thanked (...) for having accepted this mission.

(...) introduced himself and started his presentation, divided into 2 parts:

- The analysis of the EB final and preliminary results of the EB sessions 2015-2020
- The outline of the potential moderation.

In his presentation, (...) illustrated a moderation method with simulated 2020 marks since the real marks are not yet known and showed the difference between the distributions and shared the results of tests conducted to measure their difference. The final EB marks will be available after the 5th June, last day for schools to enter the A2 marks. The moderation would need to be applied to the whole population, not differentiating between schools and/or sections. The two objectives that should be met are that the average final mark remains at a level comparable to previous years and that the difference in the distribution of final marks would remain in the range of those of the former years. He also shared the results of a moderation example on the simulated results for 2020.

The Spanish Presidency had kindly offered the possibility to submit the proposal of (...) to the Statistics Department of the Spanish Ministry of Education. The feedback received was fully supportive of the proposed method.

Mr GUERRERO SALOM, the President of the 2020 EB session, approved the methodology of moderation presented by (...).

The Presidency concluded that this moderation method had now to be applied with the real 2020 marks. (...) was invited by Mr MARCHEGGIANO to work on a proposal as lenient as possible and acceptable from a statistical point of view. Mr BECKMANN reminded that the result should not negatively affect the pupils of this year, compared to those of the former years, as indicated in the document submitted to the decision of the Board of Governors.

Mr MARCHEGGIANO resumed the key points of (...) presentation:

- the highest mark will be kept as such, since it is expected to be in the range of the highest marks of the past years,
- any pupil having scored at least 60 as preliminary mark will be promoted (no pupil would fail due to the moderation),
- moreover, if the percentage of pupils who failed would be higher than usually, the moderation would be applied in such a way that some of these pupils would be promoted.

This proposal would then be submitted again to the attention of the members of the Board of Inspectors (secondary cycle) and to the President of the European Baccalaureate 2020 session, Mr GUERRERO SALOM, at the next meeting of the 15th June 2020. The final decision would have then to be taken by the President of the European Baccalaureate 2020 session.

The Board of Inspectors (Secondary) expressed a favorable opinion on the principles at the basis of the moderation method for the 2020 European Baccalaureate marks. The final decision concerning the exact moderation that will be applied will be taken by the President of the European Baccalaureate 2020 session after consultation of the Board of Inspectors (secondary cycle) at its meeting on 15th June 2020, when the preliminary marks will be known.

The Presidency closed the meeting, thanking all the members for their participation, and invited the Inspectors to reconvene at the next 'online' meeting of the Board of Inspectors (Secondary) on 15 June 2020.