Ref.: 2022-04-L-3 AB/MB

Brussels, 21 April 2022

Mr André SCHMUTZ,
President APEEEL2

European School Luxembourg II

Object: Organisation of studies for SWALS at the European School Luxembourg II

Dear Mr Schmutz,

I thank you for your letter of 20 January 2022 including the observations of the 'SWALS Working Group' as well as the reminder email. I apologise for not having replied to you earlier.

Together with Mr Van Daal and the Deputy Secretary-General, Mr Bordoy, we looked into the situation of SWALS in general and their situation at the European School Luxembourg II in particular.

Although we have an understanding for the request of SWALS parents, we do not share your point of view that SWALS students are put by our rules in a 'second-class status'.

I think not only the impressive BAC results of SWALS all over the system, but also in the European School Luxembourg II, prove that the system of the European Schools and the individual schools, including the European School Luxembourg II, invest a lot of human and financial resources to support SWALS.

Moreover, we believe that the existing rules and in particular the *'Decisions of the Board of Governors concerning the organization of studies and courses in the European Schools'* (document ref. 2019-04-D-13-en-2, p.5) provide sufficient flexibility to the management and the Administration Board of the schools to organise the studies for SWALS in an appropriate manner.

However, as Secretary-General, I am not stating that things cannot be improved and I am open to discuss a review of the existing rules in the dedicated fora including

the Joint Teaching Committee.

With respect to the concrete situation of SWALS at the European School Luxembourg II, Mr Van Daal has confirmed that SWALS in the primary cycle can benefit from 'specific SWALS support' when needed.

In the secondary cycle, the school offers language support, based on the recommendation from teachers.
However, the school management is aware of the difficulties linked to timetabling and is working on a concept for a better organisation in the coming school year. This will not entirely avoid gaps in the individual grids, but reduce them as much as possible. Moreover, the management will try to avoid situations where pupils and teachers are confronted with three lessons of mother tongue on the same day.

In the long term we should also look together in the possibility of creation of new language sections. This could improve further the situation of individual students and would also be within the spirit of the Convention defining the Statute of the European Schools.

Finally, I would like to underline that Mr Van Daal, but also Mr Bordoy and I remain at your disposal for further clarification and discussion.

Yours sincerely,

Andreas Beckmann
Secretary-General

Copy: Mr Maurice Van DAAL, Director of the ES Luxembourg II
Mr Manuel BORDOY, Deputy Secretary-General