

INTERPARENTS

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- THE ASSOCIATION OF THE PARENTS' ASSOCIATIONS OF THE EUROPEAN SCHOOLS -

President

8 February 2008

Md. Renée Christmann
Secretary General
European Schools Secretariat
Brussels

Dear Madame Christmann:

Subject: An External Assessment of the European Baccalaureate

The report of the working group on the European Baccalaureate raises the question of an external assessment ("Evaluation Externe"). Indeed, your 2007 report indicates that a call for proposals for such a study has already been published with a deadline for 11 January 2008. This is a particularly critical initiative involving a broad range of objectives and interests. Interparents supports your undertaking such a study on the understanding that the following concerns will be fully taken into account:

1. The choice of a 'specialised international organisation' is particularly important. It should be limited to those expert bodies having no prior interest in the outcome of the evaluation and in particular are not involved directly in teaching or examining secondary education at the national or international level. They must be qualified to undertake such a study on an objective and independent basis.
2. It is most important that the evaluation of the European Baccalaureate must be undertaken in relation to the achievement of the established objectives of the European School system, including the multi-cultural and multi-lingual aspects of European education and the European Baccalaureate in particular. The evaluators must be professionally and linguistically qualified to this effect, across a wide spectrum of countries, languages and subject matter.
3. The evaluation must take account of the performance of the European Baccalaureate, over time, and particularly should include an investigation into the career history of holders of the European Baccalaureate from all European Schools, based on a statistically significant sample of the Alumni during the past 40 years. This aspect in particular should be coordinated with the European Parliament which, as you mention in your Report, has already issued a call for proposals to this effect.

In this context, it would be appropriate to consider and take account of the distinct situations of the larger and the smaller schools and that of the language communities in the Member States which are not yet fully supported by the European Schools system.

4. The cost of the proposed evaluation should be reasonable and proportionate to the objective in hand and should not impinge on the pedagogical budget of the schools or on the current implementation of the Baccalaureate examinations.

More generally, Interparents would be glad to make available our experience and accumulated knowledge of the European School system to assist your consultants in any way we can. In particular I would be prepared to review the Terms of Reference of the study with your office, at your convenience, and I would like to invite the consultants to an Open Hearing, organised by Interparents, to discuss all facets of this significant initiative, before they complete their work.

To this effect, I would appreciate it if you could let me have the call for proposals and the terms of reference envisaged for this study.

With many thanks and regards,

Yours sincerely,

Christopher Wilkinson

cc: Mr Harald Feix
Md. Sofia Gardelli