

## **INTERPARENTS Meetings at the European School, Karlsruhe** 29 + 30 November 2010<sup>1</sup>

INTERPARENTS met at the Karlsruhe European School on Monday afternoon, 29 November 2010 for a Round Table meeting and Tuesday, 30 November for the Interparents meeting. Twelve of the thirteen member Parents Associations were represented (apologies by Brussels IV). Chair: Ana Gorey, President of Interparents. Tom Hoyem, Director, welcomed everyone and spoke about the implementation of the Reform, school autonomy and in particular, on the **School Advisory Council (SAC)**, which had been the subject of an unprecedented meeting of all Directors and deputy Directors last week in Belgium. Templates for an activity report and a school plan were now being developed with centralised data. Partial results of this were seen in Admin Boards instead of the Rapport de Rentrée.

Members discussed the implementation of the SAC and where their schools were with regard to the rules and procedures for the functioning of the SAC, the Annual school development plan (ASP) and the Multi-annual school development plan (MASP). The principles of school autonomy, role of the Administrative Board and hence the importance of the SAC were underlined. Interparents needs to be united in approach and aim for harmonisation/coherence within the system and between the schools. Members were invited to send in their experience of SAC meetings so far.

The main point on the Interparents meeting agenda was the preparation of the **Board of Governors 1, 2 and 3 December 2010**. The main issues were: the 2011 budget, review of the 2010 BAC, reform of the BAC, revision of Article 62, admission policy in Brussels and Munich, the opening up of the European Schools system (presentation General Interest File by The Hague) and the transformation of Culham into an Academy accredited as a Type II school.

The context of the **2011 budget** was that it was adopted on the principle that there would be major cuts. Three main cost cutting measures had been identified: teachers' salaries, creation/size of classes and SEN. The **teachers' statute** would be revised as of September 2011 for all new teachers to bring it in line with the 2004 reform for European Union staff. This means a lower salary, revision of the entry level grade and consequently makes the package considerably less attractive thus exacerbating recruitment. New measures regarding **class sizes and SEN** are still under consideration although Interparents noted that some were already being implemented.

The review of **opening up of the European Schools system** is instructive from a stock-taking point of view but lacked analyses of how effectively it is working and where improvements/changes needed to be discussed, for example, with regard to the rather vague Mondorf criteria. As for the transition of **Culham, the new Academy** is looking increasingly less like a European school, and there are even concerns with regard to the education which will be delivered within the legacy school. Questions over the arrangements for seconded teachers wanting to remain in the Type II school have not yet been resolved, thereby increasing the level of uncertainty in the school community.

Following our Munich meeting, Raymond Klaassen worked on a new area of our **website** centralising information of the working groups on the main issues, thus keeping parents better informed. Working group leaders were asked to send in the relevant main SG Office report, state of play and Interparents position paper.

Ana Gorey reported on recent developments namely: the Slovak presidency, meetings with the European Parliament Committee of Education and Culture, the CLP meeting, GUDEE, legal issues and MEET. The most serious legal issue is that of **"illegal" L1** with the Commission requesting repayments totalling almost 500,000€ from individual schools. Interparents had written to President Barroso and a meeting was foreseen with the Commission. Interparents maintained its strong position that **180 school days** must be respected by the ES for all pupils and that re-writing the rules to adapt the reality is not acceptable. Costs of alternative activities should not fall to the parents.

Members reported on progress made in the Early Years Curriculum WG, Bac Reform WG and Careers Guidance WG

Interparents agreed to become a Pledge Partner of **MEET, Movement for a European Education Trust** and individual PA's were encouraged to do so as well. More information can be found on [www.EuroEdTrust.eu](http://www.EuroEdTrust.eu).

Next meeting is our **General Assembly** on Tuesday 8 February 2011, Brussels III with a **Round Table on the Coherence of the European Schools system** which will take place Monday 7 February to which the Associated Schools Parents Associations will be invited.

Rapporteur: Ana Gorey.