

REFORM OF THE EUROPEAN BACCALAUREATE

The working group was created in January 2009 and is proceeding with its work on the basis of both the external evaluation ordered by the Board of Governors from Cambridge University and the reports of the Presidents of the Baccalaureate, notably covering the last three years.

The original aim of the Reform following the Resolutions of the European Parliament, was precisely to make the European Baccalaureate available to pupils not enrolled in Type 1 European Schools.

The main objectives of the Reform of the European Baccalaureate:

- opening up of the system (as already mentioned above)
- simplification of the organisation
- reduction of costs without compromising the quality of the diploma
- contributing to the revision of its contents and structure to fulfil the current requirements of the universities and other higher education institutions.

The main areas of Reform of the European Baccalaureate which are currently under consideration:

Technical: e.g.

- Centrally signed certificate for all EB candidates at all schools Type 1/2/3
- Double correction for written examinations
- Number of written and oral examinations
- Costs paid by EB candidates
- Dematerialisation of written examination papers

Pedagogical: e.g.

- Introduction of an interdisciplinary project
- Introduction of the European Credit Transfer System
- Harmonisation of the evaluation criteria for written and oral examinations

In addition to the educational and technical/organisational aspects of the European Baccalaureate, the issue of its cost for Accredited Schools should be considered. Indeed, the present cost per pupil of the European Baccalaureate within the system is too high. Measures already taken and those submitted to the Board of Governors within the framework of the Reform of the Baccalaureate should make it possible to arrive at a more reasonable amount.

In this context, the decisions that will be taken regarding the Reform of the Baccalaureate are essential and must be taken bearing in mind the pupils enrolled in schools that are already accredited and who will be taking the examination for the first time in 2013.

The credibility and value of the European Baccalaureate, a qualification whose status as a school-leaving certificate recognised by all member states and beyond must be preserved, will be enhanced by its wider availability thereby ultimately benefitting the European Schools system as a whole.

Karin van Vrede-Leopold
March 2011