



Schola Europaea / Office of the Secretary-General

Ref.: 2024-03-D-19-en-2

Original: EN



Parma Declaration to “Action Plan: Reflection on the Future of the European Schools System”

Approved by the Board of Governors on 10, 11 and 12 April 2024 –
Parma (Italy)

<p>Board of Governors</p> <p>Meeting on: 10, 11 and 12 April 2024</p> <p>Proposal: The members of the Board of Governors are invited to approve the “Parma Declaration on the Future of the European Schools System” in Annex 1.</p> <p>Proposed entry into force: Immediate</p> <p>Outcome: At the request of the Board, one modification is made to Point 5: <i>“[...] In this context, the opportunity of launching an external evaluation of the system and the possible review of the legal framework Convention of the European Schools could be thoroughly evaluated.”</i></p> <p>With this sole modification, the members of the Board of Governors approved the “Parma Declaration on the Future of the European Schools System”, which will be shared with the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers.</p>	<p>Ref.: 2024-03-D-19-en-1</p>
<p>Final version approved by: BoG on 10-12 April 2024</p> <p>Entry into force : Immediate</p>	<p>Ref.: 2024-03-D-19-en-2</p>

Annex 1

PARMA DECLARATION ON THE FUTURE OF THE EUROPEAN SCHOOLS SYSTEM

The Board of Governors:

- having regard to the Resolution of the European Parliament on *the system of European Schools: state of play, challenges and perspectives* (2022/2149(INI)) adopted by the EP Plenary in September 2023;
- having regard to the Reform of the European Schools System, approved by the Board of Governors of the European Schools Meeting in Stockholm on 21, 22 and 23 April 2009, (ref.: 2009-D-353-en-4);
- having regard to the Heads of Delegations' reflection on the Vision and Mission for the European Schools at their meeting in Dunboyne (Ireland) on 12 April 2023 (ref.: 2023-04-D-30);
- having regard to the Decision of the Board of Governors at its extraordinary meeting held on 20 October 2023 in Luxembourg (ref.: 2023-10-D-40-en-2);
- having regard to the outcome of the meetings of the Enlarged Presidency Working Group held on 28 November 2023, on 10 January and on 21 March 2024;
- having regard to the CULT hearing on European Schools on 13 February 2024;
- having regard to the *Action Plan: Reflection on the Future of the European Schools' System - Follow-up to the Report of the European Parliament* (ref.: 2024-01-D-30) and the outcome of the discussions held in the Joint Board of Inspectors, the Joint Teaching Committee, the Budgetary Committee and the Board of Governors;
- Welcomes the European Parliament Resolution on the *System of European Schools: state of play, challenges and perspectives* and wishes to work towards implementation of its recommendations with concrete and ambitious steps forward;
- Recognises that the European Schools are a living 'laboratory' with high-quality multilingual education, highly performing students, and engaged European staff, teachers, and inspectors, all committed to promoting European values. The European Schools support the feeling of national identity while simultaneously strengthening the sense of European belonging. The innovative curriculum not only includes the elements of the national educational systems but also integrates best practices from diverse educational systems across Europe, thereby fostering a unified and comprehensive approach to learning.

- Promotes the implementation of the Action Plan adopted on the Board of Governors Meeting in Parma (10-12 April 2024), as the outcome of a comprehensive reflection prompted by the European Parliament's Report. Believes that the Action Plan represents an important first step of a reforming effort touching upon different areas of governance, administration and pedagogy of the European Schools System;
- Stresses that the progress achieved during the Italian Presidency built upon the various initiatives launched by preceding Presidencies. It trusts that this endeavour will be continued and consolidated under future Presidencies, facilitated by the contributions of the working groups and supported by the Office of the Secretary-General of the European Schools and all European Schools;
- Such approach is meant to make good use of the momentum generated by the European Parliament's Report, while promoting the conditions for the adoption of further action in the areas not immediately addressed at this stage. In this context, the opportunity of launching an external evaluation of the system and the possible review of the legal framework of the European Schools could be thoroughly evaluated;
- Commits to pursuing further progress in pedagogical development and the sharing of best practices, aiming to establish the European Schools System as a reference point for the national education systems across Europe, also in view of the possible development of the European Education Area;
- Expresses its commitment to attracting and retaining highly qualified teaching staff and to render the European Schools System more attractive and visible throughout the European Union;
- Stresses the important role of Accredited European Schools in advancing this unique educational model;
- Stresses the need to engage the Member States at the highest political level and calls for the Council of Ministers' and the European Parliament's support towards these objectives.