

Brussels, 28th November 2012

PETITION TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE EUROPEAN SCHOOLS
IMPACT OF THE ENROLMENT POLICY ON THE EN SECTION OF BRUSSELS II (WOLUWE)

We are writing to you as concerned parents of L1 UK and Irish children currently enrolled in Brussels II, Woluwe, in the Anglophone section.

As you are aware, EEBII is the most popular of all four European schools in Brussels due to its location. Enrolment policies applied to Woluwe since 2006 have tried to address the resulting problem of overcrowding and also to populate Brussels IV in Laeken. However, these enrolment policies have not been formulated in a way that ensures equal burden sharing either between or within sections, and have resulted in the progressive decline of L1 numbers in the EN section because the number of classes has been limited to one per year and priority enrolment given to SWALS L2 pupils.

The pedagogical continuity of L1 EN in the school is now under threat, especially at the lower end, for example in EN Kindergarten where L2 SWALS make up 81% of the M2 students and 68% overall for both M1 & M2. At the same time many local UK and Irish children have been forced to accept places in Brussels I or IV (a daily commute of up to 1.5 hours each way), to remain in the Belgian system or to pay for private schooling. No other nationality present within the school has paid such a price for the last 7 years of restrictive enrolment policies.

The distribution of SWALS L2 pupils in Brussels II, across the three vehicular language sections for the 2012/2013 school year is as follows:

EN section = 38%, FR section = 12%, DE section = 2%

This can be broken down further to show the impact on kindergarten, primary and secondary, and once again the biggest impact is on the EN section in all three instances:

Kindergarten (M1 & M2): EN section = 68%, FR section = 61%, DE section = 14%

Primary: EN section = 48%, FR section = 32%, DE section = 5%

Secondary: EN section = 37%, FR section = 5%, DE section = 3.5%

It is clear that, given the constant increases in the numbers of L2 SWALS being enrolled in Woluwe, the only viable long-term solution will be the opening of new sections. In the meantime, however, as parents of L1 children in the EN section of the school, we feel it is imperative that the Board of Governors take action in order to alleviate the situation in the section ahead of the next enrolment period for 2013-2014.

In this respect, we understand that the latest version of the draft enrolment policy takes account of the pedagogical continuity of certain language sections, but does not give sufficient consideration to the particular pressure on L1 in the EN section.

In order to stop the decline and **ensure the pedagogical continuity of L1 in the EN section**, the enrolment policy for 2013/2014 should explicitly recognise this unfair burden and as a result include the following elements:

1. **Accept all non-priority L1 students in Kindergarten (M1 & M2) and up to a maximum of 15 per class for all 1st, 2nd and 3rd Primary classes.**
2. **Allocate extra resources to Brussels II in order to provide full-time class assistants for classes of 25 or more students with 30% or more L2 SWALS in the kindergarten and primary sections.**

We appeal to you to give serious consideration to our concerns and take the necessary measures in order to ensure a more equitable share of the burden on the EN section in Brussels II.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours faithfully,

Parents of L1 students in the EN section of the European School, Brussels II, Woluwe
(List of signatories attached).

Cc:

Mr Kari Kivinen, Secretary General of European Schools

Mr John Russell, UK Department of Education

Mr Richard Hoy, UK Department of Education

Mr Gary Ó Donnchadha, Irish Department of Education and Skills

Mr Pawel Wojtczak, Director of EEBII, Woluwe

Mr Javier Arnedo, Deputy Director of EEBII, Woluwe

Mrs Grankvist, Deputy Director of EEBII, Woluwe

Mr Wolfgang Munch, President of the APEEE, EEBII, Woluwe

Mrs Christine Bardoux, Head of Unit, European Schools, DG HR

Sir John Cunliffe, UK Permanent Representation to the EU

Mr Rory Montgomery, Irish Permanent Representation to the EU

PETITION TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

From the Parents of L1 UK and Irish Children in Anglophone section of Brussels II, Woluwe

	<u>Name of Parent</u>	<u>Class(es) of child/children</u> <u>Kindergarten (M), Primary (P), Secondary (S)</u>
1.	[REDACTED]	P4 , S2
2.	[REDACTED]	M2, P2, P4 , S1
3.	[REDACTED]	P3, S3
4.	[REDACTED]	P3, S3
5.	[REDACTED]	P2
6.	[REDACTED]	P2
7.	[REDACTED]	P4, S2
8.	[REDACTED]	P4, S2, S4
9.	[REDACTED]	S5, S6
10.	[REDACTED]	P4, S2
11.	[REDACTED]	M2, P2, P4, S1
12.	[REDACTED]	P4
13.	[REDACTED]	P4
14.	[REDACTED]	P4, S2
15.	[REDACTED]	S6, S7
16.	[REDACTED]	S2, S5
17.	[REDACTED]	P2, P5
18.	[REDACTED]	P2, P5
19.	[REDACTED]	P4, P5, S4
20.	[REDACTED]	S4, S6
21.	[REDACTED]	S4, S6
22.	[REDACTED]	S4, S5
23.	[REDACTED]	S4, S5
24.	[REDACTED]	S1, S4
25.	[REDACTED]	S1, S4
26.	[REDACTED]	P2, P5
27.	[REDACTED]	S7
28.	[REDACTED]	S2, S4, S6
29.	[REDACTED]	S2, S4, S6
30.	[REDACTED]	S2, S7
31.	[REDACTED]	S2, S7
32.	[REDACTED]	S2, S4
33.	[REDACTED]	S2, S4
34.	[REDACTED]	P4, S1
35.	[REDACTED]	P3, P4
36.	[REDACTED]	P3, P4

37.	[REDACTED]	P4, S2
38.	[REDACTED]	S2, S3
39.	[REDACTED]	S2, S3
40.	[REDACTED]	P4, S4, S5
41.	[REDACTED]	P4, S4, S5
42.	[REDACTED]	S4
43.	[REDACTED]	S4
44.	[REDACTED]	S5, S6, S7
45.	[REDACTED]	S2a, S2b, S5
46.	[REDACTED]	S2a, S2b, S5
47.	[REDACTED]	P1, P3 (M1 in 2013/2014)
48.	[REDACTED]	P1, P3 (M1 in 2013/2014)
49.	[REDACTED]	P3, S1, S4
50.	[REDACTED]	P3, S1, S4
51.	[REDACTED]	S1, S3
52.	[REDACTED]	S1, S3
53.	[REDACTED]	P1
54.	[REDACTED]	P1
55.	[REDACTED]	P3, S2, S6, S6
56.	[REDACTED]	P3, S2, S6, S6
57.	[REDACTED]	P1, S5
58.	[REDACTED]	P1, S5
59.	[REDACTED]	P3, S3
60.	[REDACTED]	P3, S3
61.	[REDACTED]	P3, P1, P1
62.	[REDACTED]	P3, P1, P1
63.	[REDACTED]	M1, P1, P3
64.	[REDACTED]	M1, P1, P3
65.	[REDACTED]	S2, S3
66.	[REDACTED]	S2, S3
67.	[REDACTED]	P4, S1
68.	[REDACTED]	P3, S1
69.	[REDACTED]	P2
70.	[REDACTED]	P2
71.	[REDACTED]	P2
72.	[REDACTED]	S5
73.	[REDACTED]	S3, S5
74.	[REDACTED]	S4
75.	[REDACTED]	S3, S4
76.	[REDACTED]	S3, S4
77.	[REDACTED]	S3, S5
78.	[REDACTED]	S3, S5
79.	[REDACTED]	P4
80.	[REDACTED]	P4

81. [REDACTED] S5
82. [REDACTED] S5
83. [REDACTED] S5
84. [REDACTED] S5
85. [REDACTED] S5