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de la fonction publique de l'Union européenne

Section de Luxembourg

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09/09/2005

European school Canteen issue

13/6/2005

Mister President,

In the context of the social policy of the Commission and the social levy, as defined by the new statutes and paid from our salaries, what are the measures for the safeguarding of pedagogical benefits at the European School -such as the problematic canteen- which we have seen deteriorate steadily over the past years?

The relevant budget line of 200.000 euros was cut and, consequently, the European School is no longer able to financially cover canteen costs. WHY? The parents want the canteen to remain part of the European School administration.

We ask for your assurances, Mister President, that your office will take action as soon as possible by instructing the competent services and social organs of the Commission to resolve our serious local problems at the European School, in your capacity as President and during your term of office.

Thank you.

Marika PAPASIDERI, Executive Committee, A&D-L

Transmitted to the Office of President Barroso by Micheal ASHBROOK, Ploitical Secretary A&D-L

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Mr. Michael ASHBROOK Political Secretary A&D-L BECH A2/15

Dear Mr. Ashbrook,

Thank you for your email of 13 June, addressed to President Barroso.

I hope you will excuse the delay in this response. We had hoped to be able to tell you before the summer holidays that a solution had been found, but I very much regret that this is still not the case. It is important that the difficulties of the canteen in Luxembourg are solved, allowing it to remain open and respond to the needs of the pupils.

The 2005 budget of the European school of Luxembourg I was approved by the Board of Governors (BoG) in accordance with the rules set in 1966 by the BoG. These state that the remuneration of ancillary staff recruited exclusively for the canteen has to be incorporated into meal prices and hence borne by the parents. A similar budget cut has been made in the three European schools of Brussels (sometimes a far bigger amount) without creating the same difficulties.

The Commission participates in the Administrative Board of the European School and in the meetings of the Heads of Administration, at which this issue is still under discussion. Our Institution is seriously trying to help both the school and the parents in this matter. The next meeting of the Board in September has been especially set to discuss and find a solution to the problems raised. We are confident that it will have a constructive outcome.

Yours sincerely,

Alexander ITALIANER

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