



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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INST 226**

INFORMATION NOTE

from: Presidency

to: Council

Subject: European Schools

- *Information from the Presidency*

Delegations will find attached an information note from the Presidency on the above subject, which has been included on the agenda under "Other Business" for the next Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council meeting on 16-17 May 2013.

European Schools
Information from the Presidency

1. A number of Member States consider that there are underlying problems with the European School system's current model, including with respect to cost-sharing.
2. In this context, colleagues will also be aware of particular issues which have arisen recently, notably the UK position on the secondment of teachers.
3. The relevant organs of the school system, namely the Board of Governors and the Secretary General, have made efforts to resolve the underlying issues of concern.
4. To date, however, these efforts have not yielded a result capable of commanding unanimous support.
5. The Presidency has been made aware of the strong view of parents with children in the European School system that the current situation has the potential to adversely affect the education of their children.
6. Colleagues will have seen the letter from Interparents entitled "European Schools in Crisis" which has been copied to all Ministers of Education and to the European Schools Board of Governors.
7. The Presidency is conscious of the separate and discrete nature of the inter-governmental European schools system and the Council. We are also conscious that a formal decision on this matter cannot be reached within the Council format.
8. However, given that there are relatively few occasions when Ministers of Education meet, and given the urgency of the issue, the Presidency considers it appropriate to raise this issue at political level, as an *other business* item on the Council agenda.
9. It is evident that a process needs to be put in place to resolve these issues.
10. The Irish Presidency stands ready to use its good offices, in partnership with other stakeholders, to assist in any way it can with developing a process intended to resolve the issues at hand.