

To; Commissioner Johannes Hahn
European Commission

Woluwe, 22 December 2023

Subject; Evere and Overcrowding at Brussels European Schools

Dear Commissioner,

We are contacting you on the status of the European School Brussels 2 (EEB 2) Evere site.

We understand that your visit to the site last week was very well-received and we thank you most sincerely for demonstrating your commitment to European Schools.

Parents of the European schools learnt that the current EEB2 Evere school building has a temporary permit only until 2027. Its use beyond 2027 appears – based on information available by now – to be subject to receiving a new planning permit by the Brussels-Capital Region. Furthermore, the current school site (at least the school bus arrival zone and also possibly parts of the playground) conflicts with the future zoning plan of the entire PAD Defense area, that is currently under public consultation and which would make the functioning of the school impossible.

Current and future parents, many of those working for the European Commission, are alerted and would need clarity on this complex issue, both now and in the longer term. Many families have made life decisions on the allocation of a place in a specific European school. Parents relied on the information that the EEB2 Evere site is permanently allocated to EEB2 and should, in the future, welcome all its nursery and primary pupils, while the EEB2 Woluwe site should be entirely dedicated to secondary pupils. The European Commission and the Secretary General of the European Schools communicated to parents in December 2022 on the necessity of this modification to reduce the critical overpopulation of the existing European Schools in Brussels. This long-term allocation of pupils, and of the overall future of the linguistic sections within the Brussels European schools, was based on the information that the Belgian government, at its Council of Ministers' meeting of 13 May 2022, decided to allocate the Evere site definitely to EEB2.

Last week, parents received more detailed information on the outcome of the Council of Ministers' meeting of 13 May 2022, by an adviser to State Secretary Mathieu Michel (appended). Having read it, we can only hope that there has been a subsequent binding decision effectively making the EEB2 Evere site a definitive one, without any conditionality. As you will understand from the information reproduced below, reading a "definitive" status into a conditional provision of a new planning permit appears to many as a quite daring assumption.

We understand the Secretary General of the European Schools has sought further clarification from the Belgian State on the permanent nature of the EEB2 Evere site. However, the last Steering Committee (SC) for the European Schools Brussels, the usual forum for this dialogue, took place in October 2022. We have requested a date for a new meeting of the SC but to date this has not been arranged. For this reason that we also to turn to you for help in gaining greater clarity on this issue

We kindly request your political support. Please support the European school system to secure a permanent status of the EEB2 Evere site, not only politically, but also administratively. From our viewpoint it needs a prolongation of the permit of the current EEB2 Evere school site beyond 2027, and funding for a permanent EEB2 Evere school site in the same area in the long-term.

We would be pleased if you could keep us informed, as well as the parents among European Commission staff. Your support would mean a lot to our children and families.

Many thanks for your consideration.

We wish you and your team a very Merry Christmas and festive season.

Kind regards,

Andrew Janis Folkmanis
President for APEEE Bxl II Evere-Woluwe
With the support of the 4 Presidents of the APEEEs of the other Brussels European Schools

Annex

From:
Sent: Wednesday, December 13, 2023 1:58 PM
Cc:
Subject: RE: Décision du 13 Mai 2022

Chère Madame xxxx,

Nous ne pouvons malheureusement pas donner suite à votre requête. Je vous prie de bien vouloir noter que les notes au Conseil des Ministres sont confidentielles conformément à la loi du 11 avril 1994 relative à la publicité de l'administration, d'autant plus que celle-ci concerne d'autres dossiers de la Régie des Bâtiments qui ne concernent pas la 5^{ème} Ecole européenne. Je propose dès lors de ne transmettre que les extraits de la notification qui concernent les écoles européennes, à savoir :

- Le 13 mai 2022, le Conseil des ministres a marqué son accord sur le changement d'implantation du site pour la cinquième école européenne sur le site de Neder-Over-Heembeek. Le Conseil des Ministres a chargé la Régie de réaliser une analyse afin de recourir ou non pour le projet de cinquième école européenne à un partenariat public-privé type DBFM (O). Le Secrétaire d'Etat à la Régie des bâtiments est chargé de soumettre, dans les meilleurs délais, un plan relatif au financement global du dossier.
- Le Conseil des ministres a également approuvé la pérennisation de l'occupation du site de Berkendael ainsi que la prolongation de l'école provisoire de Evere moyennant l'obtention d'un nouveau Permis d'urbanisme par la Région de Bruxelles-Capitale au-delà de la mise à disposition d'une cinquième école européenne ;
- Enfin, le Conseil des Ministres a chargé la Régie de réaliser les études d'implanter un modèle hybride d'école avec un mixte d'enfant belges et européens sur le site « îlot 130 ».

Je vous souhaite une belle journée.
Bien à vous,

Conseillère



ROYAUME DE BELGIQUE – KONINKRIJK BELGIË

Cabinet de Monsieur Mathieu Michel
Secrétaire d'Etat à la Digitalisation, chargé de la Simplification administrative, de la Protection de la vie privée, de la Régie des bâtiments, adjoint au Premier ministre
Kabinet van Mijnheer Mathieu Michel

Staatssecretaris voor Digitalisering, belast met Administratieve Vereenvoudiging, Privacy, Regie der gebouwen,
toegevoegd aan de Eerste minister

Rue des Petits Carmes 15
Karmelietenstraat 15
1000 Bruxelles - Brussel

From:
Sent: mercredi 13 décembre 2023 13:49
To:
Subject: FW: Décision du 13 Mai 2022

From:
Sent: mercredi 13 décembre 2023 13:43
To:
Subject: Décision du 13 Mai 2022

Opgelet ! Externe e-mail. Wees voorzichtig bij openen van bijlagen of links.
Attention ! Courriel externe. Soyez prudent lorsque vous ouvrez des pièces jointes ou
des liens.

Chère Madame,

Je cherche une décision du Conseil de Ministres Belge sur l'établissement de l'école
européenne d'Evere comme site permanente - décision du 13 Mai 2022, mentionnée
dans ce [document](#)*.

Je ne la trouve pas dans le site web où ces décisions sont normalement publiés.

Pourriez-vous s'il vous plaît m'envoyer une copie de cette décision?

**On 13 May 2022, the Belgian Council of Ministers took the decision: - to allocate
the Berkendael and Evere Sites, until now made available on a temporary basis,
definitively to the Brussels I European School and the Brussels II European School
respectively.*

Merci d'avance pour votre aide.

Avec mes meilleurs salutations,
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