Réunion Extraordinaire du Conseil d'Administration de l'APEEE Evere-Woluwe
Jeudi, 17 septembre 2026 – 12h30-13h40
Online only

MINUTES – MEETING OF 17 SEPTEMBER 2026

Participant Board Members:
Andrea Panizza (IT), Deputy Secretary
Andrew Janis Folkmanis (EN)
Anja Semmelrodt (DE)
Joana Gil (PT), Secretary
Lena Widefjäll (SE)
Mindaugas Skaraitis (LT), Member of the Bureau
Rüdiger Martin (DE)
Virginie Battu-Henriksson (SE), President

Excused Board Members:
Alessia Ghezzi (IT)
Albert Rädler (DE), Treasurer
Johanna Peyredieu du Charlat (SE)
José Madeira (DE)
Nicolas Lacroix (FR), Vice-President for administrative matters
Soraya Lemaire (FR)
Virgilio Miolato (IT)

Before entering the points of the agenda, the President acknowledged the message sent by Anne Becker resigning from her mandate as Board member. The President thanked Anne Becker for all the work carried out in 2026, in particular as Vice-President responsible for pedagogical matters, a role which was carried out with great commitment and dedication.

1. Approval of the agenda

In light of the resignation of the Vice-President responsible for administrative matters, an additional point was added to the agenda to decide on the representation of the APEEE in SAC and in the Administrative Board. The adjusted agenda was approved by unanimity.

Decision: The agenda is approved.

2. Items for decision

2.1 APEEE's position in the SAC meeting, in preparation of the Administrative Board, on:

a) Annual Pedagogical School Plan 2026-2027

The Board agrees that the position of the APEEE in the SAC meeting is to be built around the input received during the Whole School Inspection that took place earlier this year and

further pursue the suggestions already sent to the School, in July, with regard to the Annual Pedagogical School Plan 2026-2027.

b) 2027-2028 calendar proposal

The Board discussed the implications of the proposed calendar, this year prepared by EEB3 (Ixelles) in line with the standard practice according to which there is rotation between the four Brussels-based schools in preparing the calendar.
Board members discussed the date of the first day of the school year 2027-2028, set for 3 September 2027, Friday. Board members concurred that the first school day of the year being typically half a day, it should fall on a day other than Friday, in order to avoid preventing the families from organising what could be the last weekend before the *rentrée* as they see fit.
Carnival was debated given its cultural relevance in many Member States, since the proposed calendar provides for a one-week break the week before Carnival (that is, 21 to 25 March 2028), and not on Carnival week (which will be 28 February to 3 March 2028). The Board acknowledged the inconvenience of this mismatch, which makes it difficult to enjoy the Carnival festivities that take place in several Member States, some of which are World Heritage.
The most substantial discussion took place around the organisation of Christmas break, which is proposed to cover 12 days, with classes lasting until 21 December 2027 and resuming only on 10 January 2028. This deprives families from the opportunity to reach their homelands earlier, so that they would have time to participate in the preparations that take place before Christmas. Instead, those days would fall in early January, a moment on which work in the European institutions tends to resume quickly, very often making it impossible for the European institutions' staff to take time off. Although it is understandable the effort made every year to encompass the Epiphany in the school holidays, this year that would make the holidays long, starting late and covering a period where many parents are required to work. Given that the European schools are closely related to the existence and rhythm of the European Institutions, it is detrimental to families to have a full week of school break in January, a period where parents might not have the choice not to work and where it is difficult to enrol children in suitable activities.

The Board voted on the position with regard to supporting the school calendar proposed for 2027-2028: **7 no** (Andrea Panizza, Andrew Janis Folkmanis, Anja Semmelrodt, Joana Gil, Lena Widefjäll, Mindaugas Skaraitis, Virginie Battu-Henriksson) and **1 abstention** (Rüdiger Martin).

c) Organisation of activities during 2027 oral exams

The Board discussed the proposals for the organisation of activities during 2027 oral exams. Board members unanimously expressed their preference for activities that have a pedagogical intent, and not just leisure or entertainment. Having mandatory activities whose pedagogical content is dubious would not be appropriate. However, having just voluntary activities, which have to be financed by parents, means accepting that there are not 180 school days. Board members agreed that despite the understandable constraints, many parents expect the school to be able to ensure 180 days of school. Given the different sensibilities amongst the parents' community, supporting or not supporting the derogation to the rule should lie in the hands of the school, with the APEEE neither supporting nor objecting. Abstention cannot in any case be understood as a sign of lack of engagement by parents on this matter, which is of utmost relevance – abstention should

therefore be accompanied by a proper statement to be made in Admin Board outlining the position of the APEEE.

d) Points to be raised in SAC as “Points of the parents”

Irrespective of whether all the points will be taken from SAC to the Administrative Board, the following points gathered consensus on their relevance to be taken to the SAC meeting:

- Infrastructure in EVE, including state of play on permits (for the site itself as well as for additional modules), toilets and use of library
- Infrastructure and timetables in WOL, including the setting up of appropriate study rooms to cater for students needs whenever their schedules have free time in the middle of the day
- School trips and “kitty”:
- Data protection and use of IA: raise the importance of having a clear policy on AI and data protection in the school environment as the use of AI is increasing and not all teachers, nor all parents, may be aware of risk of using sensitive data of students (like name, age, picture, video etc) for the use of AI.

Decision: At the SAC meeting aimed at preparing the Administrative Board meeting, the APEEE representatives are to:

- comment on the Annual School Pedagogical Plan 2026-2027 in line with the input sent to the school in July 2026;
- not support the proposed 2027-2028 school calendar;
- abstain on the vote for the organisation of activities during 2027 oral exams, alongside a statement highlighting the importance of having 180 school days;
- raise the following points: infrastructure in EVE (including modules, permits, toilets and library) and infrastructure and timetables in WOL (including study rooms and their interplay with schedules), “kitty” for school trips, and data protection in the context of the use of IA.

2.2. Designation of a representative for the SAC meeting and for the Administrative Board meeting

In light of Anne Becker’s resignation, Joana Gil volunteered to attend the SAC meeting on 21 September together with Lena Widefjäll. The Board designates Joana Gil to attend the SAC meeting by acclamation.

Decision: Joana Gil is designated to attend the SAC meeting in replacement of Anne Becker.

In light of Anne Becker’s resignation, Anja Semmelrodt volunteered to attend the Administrative Board meeting on 29 September together with the President. The Board designates Anja Semmelrodt to attend the Administrative Board meeting by acclamation.

Decision: Anja Semmelrodt is designated to attend the Administrative Board meeting in replacement of Anne Becker.

The meeting ended at 13h40.

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