

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1013/04
by Franz Turchi (UEN)
to the Council

Subject: Increase in European School fees

The Board of Governors of the European Schools met in Brussels on 15 March this year. The topics discussed at the meeting included the increase in fees paid for each pupil each academic year. It was decided by 12 votes in favour to increase the fees for the 2005/2006 academic year by 11%, plus the average rate of inflation in Europe. Italy, Greece, Spain, Portugal and the Netherlands voted against.

Parents are extremely worried, since such decisions do not encourage broad access to education.

At the meeting the parents' representative expressed his concern at the planned increases, since they would lead to the elimination of category III pupils, i.e. those not automatically entitled to attend a European School. What will the Council do to ensure that access to the European Schools is not restricted in the near future?