

WRITTEN QUESTION E-4953/05  
by Lilli Gruber (PSE)  
to the Commission

Subject: European Schools in Brussels

Schooling conditions in the European schools in Brussels, especially for children of EU officials, have steadily deteriorated over the last few years. Overcrowding, poor hygiene and security conditions, and more expensive school meals and extracurricular activities are problems which are there for all to see. The delay of several years in setting up the Brussels IV school is one of the main causes of this problem.

What steps has the Commission taken vis-à-vis the relevant authorities (Secretary-General of the European Schools, Board of Governors of the European Schools, Belgian Government, local authorities, etc.) in recent years to uphold the right of children to an adequate educational system and the right of officials to appropriate assistance with regard to social aspects of their having to live in Brussels?

What measures has the Commission taken in recent years to obtain from the Belgian administration and the other relevant authorities credible planning of the necessary resources and respect for the obligation to provide adequate facilities in due time, located appropriately according to the interests of pupils and their families? What measures will it take with a view to the future, in particular to avoid a recurrence of the current particularly unsatisfactory conditions?

Will the Commission agree to demand that the necessary budgetary funds be made available to the European Schools in order to remedy the current shortcomings and bring the quality of service on offer into line with that of establishments of a similar standard in the Member States?