

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3608/07  
by Klaus Hänsch (PSE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Enrolment policy of European schools in Brussels

The enrolment policy pursued by the European schools in Brussels for the 2007/2008 school year has led to a great deal of uncertainty and protest on the part of families affected by the restrictions. Children who do not have brothers and sisters in the other European schools, and who are to be enrolled in the DE, EN, FR, IT or NL sections, must be prepared for extremely long school journeys to and from the temporary primary school in Berkendael and can expect mergers of classes involving up to three school years. Their further school career is also uncertain, as it is still undecided whether they will be admitted into the secondary school of the new European school in Laeken or into one of the three old European schools.

1. What steps is the Commission taking to meet its responsibilities for the quality and continuity - essential from an educational point of view - of schooling at the European schools in Brussels?
2. Is it not essential to prevent children between the ages of four and eight from being forced to be driven for up to two hours a day by school bus through the city, to and from their school, because they are being denied access to nearby schools?
3. Is the Commission prepared to accept the new association of future parents of European schools as a full partner in discussions and to work together with it to look for appropriate solutions?