Subject: Religious education at the European Schools

The Board of Governors of the European Schools has announced cost-cutting measures under which religious education at the European Schools is to be reduced or entirely cut. This issue was taken off the agenda of the Board of Governors at the beginning of 2013 at the urging of the European Parliament. It was announced that working groups, together with the Churches, would develop a new framework for religious education by December 2013.

It seems, however, that the Churches and those affected by the new framework, namely the students and their parents, have been either excluded from this process or insufficiently included, and have not been kept adequately informed.

What position does the Commission advocate in the working groups and the Board of Governors regarding the cutting of religious education in the European Schools? How, in the view of the Commission, can values be conveyed in a concrete and differentiated way in the European Schools if religious education is cut? Will religious education be offered in the student’s mother tongue? What further steps are planned? Is there already a specific timeframe for the decisions to be taken?