

ORAL QUESTION H-0558/05
for Question Time at the part-session in July 2005
pursuant to Rule 109 of the Rules of Procedure
by Javier Moreno Sánchez
to the Commission

Subject: Overcrowding at the Woluwe and Ixelles European Schools in Brussels

Overcrowding at European Schools II and III in Brussels is causing very serious problems affecting both the education of the children of EU officials and workers and the families of those children. The opening of European School IV in Laeken in 2009 lies too far ahead in the future to be regarded as a possible solution to the acute problems which are already being experienced. In response to this state of affairs the European Schools' Senior Council has for the 2005-2006 school year expressly forbidden the headteachers of Schools II and III to create new nursery groups in the English, French, German, Italian and Spanish sections and to admit new pupils into categories I or II, which might require a class to be split into two or a support group to be formed. What view does the Commission take of this restrictive policy which fails to take into account even the most basic educational criteria or the social difficulties in which very many families find themselves? Who is responsible for this lack of forward planning? What action is the Commission intending to take in order to find an immediate solution prior to the start of the new school year and thus to protect the interests of EU staff in such a fundamental area as their children's education?

Tabled: 22.06.2005
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