ORAL QUESTION H-0560/05
for Question Time at the part-session in July 2005
pursuant to Rule 109 of the Rules of Procedure
by Bárbara Dührkop Dührkop
to the Commission
Subject: Overcrowding at the European Schools - maximum number of pupils per class
In response to the problem of overcrowding at European Schools I and II in Brussels, the Senior Council is currently refusing to accept further pupils, in order to ensure that there are no more than 32 pupils per class and to avoid having to create new groups. This means that new pupils (especially ones applying for the language sections for which there is most demand) have to be turned away and that existing ones are in classes of 30 or 31 , which makes the task of teaching them particularly complicated on account of classroom overcrowding, the difficulty of monitoring pupils individually, discipline problems, safety and the increased likelihood that pupils will have to repeat a year. In view of the fact that the schools in question have the requisite budget, teaching staff and premises, and given that the 32 -pupils-per-class rule has not previously had to be applied, what view does the Commission take of this state of affairs? Does it agree with the Senior Council's policy? Is it willing to intervene in the matter in order to prevent classroom overcrowding in the coming academic year?

Tabled: 22.06.2005
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