



Schola Europaea / Office of the Secretary-General
Administrative Unit

Brussels, 4th of September 2024
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**For the attention of the Members of the European
Schools' Community**

Dear Members of the European Schools' Community,

As we embark on a new school year, I want to extend my warmest greetings to all of you. As Secretary-General of the European Schools, I wish all of us a good and successful start, especially our new pupils, staff members and their families.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome two new Directors at the 'traditional' European Schools. At the European School Frankfurt, Ms Anastazija Avsec will take over the role of Director from Mr Ferdinand Patscheider and at the European School Karlsruhe, Mr László Munkácsy will take over the position from Mr Daniel Gassner. I wish both new Directors great success with the support of all of us and thank the two outgoing Directors for their strong commitment and outstanding leadership over the past nine years.

Moreover, we warmly welcome Mr Ciprian Fartusnic as the new Head of the Pedagogical Development Unit at the Office of the Secretary-General in Brussels.

Reflecting on the past school year, we celebrated the 70th Anniversary of the European Schools and initiated a process to review our mission and vision, preparing our unique educational system for the future.

The European Parliament's [Resolution](#), '*The system of the European Schools: state of play, challenges and perspectives*', recognises and values the excellence of our schools and outlines areas for further improvement and potential challenges.

Based on this Resolution, the Board of Governors approved an ambitious [Action Plan](#) in April 2024, under the Italian Presidency, accompanied by the '[Parma Declaration](#)', which includes long-term commitments from the Board.

Under the Cypriot Presidency, covering the 2024/25 school year, we will focus on implementing the Action Plan, including finalising the *Mission and Vision* for the European Schools. I repeat my encouragement from last year and invite you to actively participate in the consultation process via your representatives. Part of our vision is to become a more visible element of the European Educational Area, as highlighted also by the Parliament's Resolution. This would benefit the European School System as a whole, including 'traditional' and Accredited European Schools.

Looking ahead towards the new school year, I am pleased to announce that in spring 2025, the European Schools will participate for the second time in the 'PISA for Schools' project, organised by the OECD. As Secretary-General, I am confident that our pupils will achieve outstanding results, just as they did in the first round in 2022. The results will help us further develop at both the system and school levels and will also enhance our visibility.

Finally, I would like to finish by wishing all of us a smooth (re)entry and a successful and inspiring new school year 2024/25!

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'A' followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Andreas BECKMANN

Secretary-General of the
European Schools