

**Mr Michael Ryan
Secretary General of the European School Board of Govenors
Commission Européenne
Batiment J II, 30 - 2ème étage
1049 BRUXELLES**

Strasbourg, 15 September 2004

Dear Secretary General,

Following the information meeting by the European School Karlsruhe, organised by the Council of Europe on 23 March 2004, a number of staff, and members of Permanent Representations, decided to send their children to the school.

We are delighted that our children can benefit from this unique education system, with a multicultural, multilingual environment, specifically designed with European civil servants in mind and which perfectly corresponds to the needs of Council of Europe staff's children, coming from all over the greater Europe but who just happen to be based in France.

In addition, coming from Strasbourg are children from the EU Ombudsman and EuroCorps. Our association, "Etoile Education", is a result of the fact that these parents realised that they needed a forum to discuss various organisational aspects to do with the European School such as transport from Strasbourg to Karlsruhe and after school care and, if necessary, the agreement between Council of Europe staff members choosing to send their children to ESK and the Board of Governors of the European Schools.

Council of Europe staff choosing to send their children to the European School, Karlsruhe, naturally wish for their children to benefit from the same conditions as their EU and NATO colleagues, namely: the availability of places which are particularly restricted for the English Section, mother tongue teaching in addition to the Section language and the option to start in the middle of a school year. We will follow developments with great interest.

We look forward to the signing of this agreement forseen for the 20 September 2004 which will take place at the European School, Karlsruhe. We would also like to establish a more formal link between our Association and the Council of Europe, following the example set by the creation of the Association, International Development of Education in Alsace (IDEA) in March 2003 in connection with the International School at Lucie Berger.



Leif Berg
President
Etoile Education

Copies to: Mr. Terry Davis, Secretary General of the Council of Europe
Mr. Hoyem, Director of the European School, Karlsruhe
Ms. Zimmerman, Chairman of the Staff Committee
Mr. Huber, President of the Council of Europe Staff Association