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JOINT STATEMENT OF THE SECONDARY CYCLE INSPECTORS AS TO THE EUROPEAN BACCALAUREATE 2021 SESSION

Further to the Meeting held online on 16 December 2020

Follow-up of the Board of Governors, as to the “Preparation of the European Baccalaureate 2021”

Inspectors to the Secondary Cycle Consultation

BACKGROUND

During the October 2020 Joint Teaching Committee, an exchange of views was held on the potential impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the European Baccalaureate session 2021 and the measures to be taken in particular in case of scenario 3 as defined by the TASK FORCE 'Preparation of the 2020/21 school year' (see doc.2020-07-D-9-en-2).

The Joint Teaching Committee mandated the Office of the Secretary-General to set up a TASK FORCE composed of a 'core group' and a 'consultative body'.

MEETINGS

The TASK FORCE met on the following occasions:

Meeting	Date
Core Group	23.10.2020 ; 06.11.2020 ; 20.11.2020
Task Force: Core Group and Consultative Body	16.11.2020

SUPPORTIVE DOCUMENTATION OUTCOME

The TASK FORCE produced the following documents:

2020-10-D-74-en-2 TASK FORCE "Preparation of the European Baccalaureate session 2021" Core Group –GUIDELINES – *Approved by the December 2020 Board of Governors*

2020-05-D-12-en-25 « Arrangements for Implementing the Regulations for the European Baccalaureate (Applicable for the Year 2021 European Baccalaureate session) (COVID-19) – *Approved by the December 2020 Board of Governors*

2020-11-M-2.1-en MEMORANDUM Organisation of the Pre-Baccalaureate Examinations in S7 during the school year 2020-2021 – *the Board of Governors took note of the document*

CONSULTATION WITH THE INSPECTORS OF THE SECONDARY CYCLE

To support the process on the pedagogical issues, the OSGES and the French Presidency consulted the Inspectors of the Secondary Cycle of the following dates:

Meeting	Date
Secondary cycle Inspectors consultation	13.11.2020 and 16.12.2020

During the second meeting (16.12.2020), it was decided that the Inspectors would issue a common joint statement to be circulated to all involved stakeholders (Inspectors of the Secondary Cycle and Directors in order for the school management to share it with teachers, parents and pupils).

This is the object of the current document.

JOINT STATEMENT OF THE INSPECTORS OF THE SECONDARY CYCLE AS TO THE EUROPEAN BACCALAUREATE 2021

Date of the statement: 22 December 2020

Excerpt of

2020-10-D-74-en-2 TASK FORCE “Preparation of the European Baccalaureate session 2021”
Core Group –GUIDELINES

GENERAL CONSIDERATION: *Given the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic on the previous and the current school year Inspectors are asked to reflect on the opportunity to adapt their expectations in terms of assessment of the EB 2021 candidates should it be considered necessary, as to the current and future potentially altered conditions of teaching. Nevertheless, any decision taken as to this point cannot jeopardize the validity and value of the European Baccalaureate diploma.*

The members of the Board of Inspectors Secondary Cycle will be further consulted on this matter.

In cooperation with the OSGES and the French Presidency of the EB 2021 session, the Inspectors of the Secondary Cycle agree on the following:

- The Inspectors of the Secondary Cycle acknowledge the challenges the pupils of the current s7 had to face in the second semester of the 2019/20 school year and the current school year caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The Inspectors of the Secondary Cycle acknowledge that all these pupils were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the concrete impact has varied and will continue to vary from school to school.
- Therefore, the Inspectors of the Secondary Cycle agree that the Task Force ‘Preparation of the European Baccalaureate session 2021’ continues to carefully assess the situation at all European Schools including the Accredited European Schools offering the European Baccalaureate.
- In view of the COVID-19 context, the Inspectors of the Secondary Cycle agree to an analysis of the outcome of the Pre-Baccalaureate examinations.
- Where necessary, the Inspectors agree to undertake, for the written examinations, a sampling correction exercise. This will allow further clarification of the correction instructions (potential amendments) to be issued to examiners.
- Finally, the Inspectors of the Secondary Cycle agree that the examinations might be subject to further adaptation and moderation in line with the Arrangements for Implementing the Regulations for the European Baccalaureate and the Guidelines approved by the Board of Governors at its meeting in December 2020.

In particular, as to the examinations, the Inspectors commit to the following.

- Pre-Baccalaureate:
 - Support the schools in the process of alternative assessment, shall such solution be agreed by the European Baccalaureate President, if requested by the schools.

- Written EB examination papers,

The Inspectors agree to implement the following options, subject to choosing the best solution for a given situation (in respect to the development of the examination papers, nature of the subject, etc.):

- Adaptation of the marks per question in the suggested answers or marking schemes and correction criteria addressed to the correctors.

- The two competences linked to Laboratory experiments (Practical work and use of technology and Participation and working with others) will not be tested at the final written sciences examinations, as usual. This will contribute to compensate for the absence of such experiments in many schools.

- If all or part of the written examinations are maintained, to perform online, or in situ if possible, supervision of the written examinations all throughout the written examinations and corrections period, according to the school allocated within the framework of the Assurance Quality role to be fulfilled by the Vice-Chairmen (cf. Art. 5.1, 5.3, 6.4.5.2, 6.4.9.7 of the AIREB, document 2021-01-D-02 “Quality Assurance of the 2021 European Baccalaureate Written and Oral Examinations – Procedure” and Memorandum on the organization of the EB 2021 session, to be agreed upon at the Board of Inspectors and Joint Teaching Committee of February 2021)

- Parallel and constant monitoring of the written examinations’ corrections, in view to be able spot on time any potential discrepancy between the performances of the European Baccalaureate candidates and the expectations of the assessment. This process may trigger the application of Article 6.4.9.7 if necessary, where on a larger scale (moderation on the global assessment of a subject) or on a limited approach (moderation on a particular item, part of syllabus, question, sub-question, etc.).