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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

Subject: AOB for the meeting of the Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council on
27 and 28 November 2025:
Priorities of the Latvian Presidency of the European Schools - 2025/2026
School Year
- Information from Latvia

Priorities of the Latvian Presidency of the European Schools - 2025/2026 School Year

In the 2025/2026 school year, Latvia holds the Presidency of the European Schools system for the first time. The Presidency's motto, "*Well-being. Wisdom. Growth.*", reflects Latvia's commitment to strengthening education quality, the well-being of pupils and teachers, and the sustainability of the European Schools system.

During its Presidency, Latvia has outlined key strategic goals and priorities aimed at enhancing the visibility, recognition, and long-term sustainability of the European Schools system. Latvia will focus on two main priorities: enhancing the visibility and growth of the European Schools, and promoting the well-being of pupils and teachers. These priorities are consistent with the European cooperation in education and training strategic framework (2021–2030) and the ongoing Council work towards the European Education Area, while also addressing issues of particular relevance to the European Schools community. Latvia aims to reinforce information exchange and cooperation between the European Schools, the EU institutions and Member States, to ensure stronger links between the system and wider European education policy developments.

An important element of the Latvian Presidency’s efforts will be **aimed at implementing** the renewed Mission and Vision of the European Schools, adopted in June 2025 by the Board of Governors, ensuring that it becomes a shared reference point for the European Schools community and policymakers in their daily work and strategic planning.

The Presidency will also focus on new teachers’ induction and teachers’ professional development, recognising the teacher shortage as a shared European challenge. The strength and sustainability of the European Schools system also depend on Member States’ responsibility to provide seconded teachers, with the current target of 65% of teaching posts to be filled by seconded staff. **Progress towards this target is essential for maintaining high-quality education and continuity of provision, including access to teaching in pupils’ mother tongues.** Latvia underlines that quality education in the European Schools is a shared responsibility of all Member States and a common investment in Europe’s future.

Latvia will host the European Schools Teachers’ Forum in Riga in April 2026, dedicated to teachers’ and pupils’ well-being and serving as a platform for the exchange of experience and good practices between the European Schools and national education systems. By fostering dialogue and collaborative learning, the Teachers’ Forum will not only serve as a tool for professional development but also raise the visibility of the European Schools across EU and in Latvia.