

Dear members,

In contrast to our most recent, very long newsletters, this time we are sending out a pretty short one. But its smallness is only in length, the content is big, as we have big news!

We did it.

For the first time in its eventful history, the *effe* will be heard in the European Parliament! Our host is no less a person than the chairwoman of the education and culture committee herself, Mrs. Katerina Batzeli. But that's not all. We also have Mr. Ján Figel', the member of the European Commission responsible for education and he will be there to answer our questions. And to complete the trio from the European Institutions, the Education Committee of the Council of Ministers will be represented by its current chairman, Mirko Zorman, of the Slovene EU-Presidency!

Yet, not only is that attendance in itself already a legitimate reason to be really proud, but there is more; for this is exactly the right time for our organisation to be noticed by these institutions. European education policy will set a course in 2008 to be followed from 2010 onwards. To refresh your memory: the present-day European education policy was defined in the year 2000 in Lisbon for a period of ten years as part of the Lisbon Agenda. This policy will be

evaluated and adapted this year, so it is a good time for us to make our mark!

Thus, the *effe*-Colloquium is very politically oriented and engaged this year. But the *effe* wouldn't be the *effe*, if there was not also very strong content-oriented pedagogical work on the plan as well.

That is why I again would like to set before you the programme of our conference **From early childhood curiosity to early school leaving. Compulsory education, giving all young people a future.**

The following questions will be reflected upon:

- How do we keep up childhood curiosity?
- Is the concept of the school system as such the right way to keep up this early childhood curiosity?
- At what point do some children stop being eager to learn and why?
- Why is it "cool", not to be interested anymore?
- How can or should society - state, citizens, school, teacher, parent, pupil - react?
- Should changes in the structure of the school take place and, if so, how?

With these questions in our minds we will start the first evening with especially significant lectures: Germán Bernal Ríos of the European Commission will draw a picture of the situation of early school leaving in Europe and

we will listen to an introductory lecture on theories and definitions of dropout, disaffection, school leaving, etc. Furthermore we will here more detailed reports from both Eastern and Western Europe: touching on the specific problems of Roma and the difficulties of a multicultural town like Brussels when it tries to keep track of its drop outs and wishes to combat the causes and consequences. We will also follow the presentation of an art project, produced by young people in our place of venue, Foyer.

On the second day we will focus on our workshops. We will receive suggestions from the impressive array of experts that we have attracted. . We already mentioned the Dutch education consultant Kees Vreugdenhil and the famous British school head, Mike Davies. And of course we are particularly proud to have at our colloquium: Royston Maldoom, the British choreographer. Perhaps you know him from the moving film "Rhythm Is It!" where he is in charge of the choreography of a whole bunch of young people without real dance experience who were being prepared to dance Stravinsky's "Sacre." This man was nominated last year in Hamburg as "Optimist of the Year" - Those are exactly the sort of people we need!

But even that's not enough: we also have for our conference a film on the Free School SPATZ, which works as a school offering special educational help and has so far managed to send ALL of its young people after their sec-

ondary general school certificate into vocational training..

Also our host Foyer will report on one of its projects. Furthermore we will hear more about the Danish Efterskole programme, which is quite unique in the world and we will hear what kind of education programmes a city like Berlin or a country like the Czech Republic has to offer. Here also we were able to get hold of true experts in the form of Troels Borring, Hartmut Glänzel and Karel Rýdl.

The workshops have been divided into two time segments. In the first will be discussed why and how children and young people start having problems at or with school; then we will work in a very concentrated way on solution approaches and recommendations. Furthermore the workshops have been divided into four major themes which we think play an important role in the process of disaffection:

- Gender issues
- Migration and not feeling at home
- Working with children and young people who show deviant and/or addictive behaviour
- The different needs of high and low achievers

The results will be presented, together with the results of the *effe*-sms-project „*School Day X in Europe*“ the next day in the European Parliament.

That is why we appeal to you very urgently: If you are not able to make it to our conference, please try to come in as large numbers as possible to the European Parliament. Mrs. Batzeli, Mr. Figel' and Mr. Zorman in their positions: in the Parliament, Commission

and Council are ready to answer your questions and you will experience live the outcomes of the *effe*-Colloquium and how it plans to pursue this topic.

For you to be able to enter the Parliament we do need the following personal data from you as soon as possible:

- First name, last name
- Date of Birth
- Place of Birth+ Country
- Permanent Address+ Country

We are looking forward to welcoming you in Brussels!

Editorial:

Lies Feron;

Barbara Ziegler-Fonck

contact@effe-eu.org

www.effe-eu.org

Sparkasse Witten

Bankkonto: 433813

Bankleitzahl: 452 500 35

IBAN: DE50 4525 0035 0000

433813

SWIFT-BIC:

WELADED1WTN