



Plenary sitting

B10-0437/2026

2.10.2026

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statement by the Commission

pursuant to Rule 136(2) of the Rules of Procedure

on the pilot project on European Schools Alliances and its contribution to citizenship education, democratic competences and European values (2026/2713(RSP))

Marc Jongen

on behalf of the ESN Group

European Parliament resolution on the pilot project on European Schools Alliances and its contribution to citizenship education, democratic competences and European values (2026/2713(RSP))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Article 165(1) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU),
- having regard to the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, and in particular Articles 11(1) and 14(3) thereof,
- having regard to Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights, and in particular Article 2 of Protocol No. 1 thereto,
- having regard to the white paper of 12 May 2025 entitled ‘Restoring control over the immigration system’ published by the United Kingdom Home Office¹,
- having regard to the report of September 2026 entitled ‘PISA 2025 Results (Volume 1): Future-Ready Students’ published by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development,
- having regard to the statement by the Commission of 6 October 2026 on the pilot project on European Schools Alliances and its contribution to citizenship education, democratic competences and European values,
- having regard to Rule 136(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the EU must fully respect the responsibility of the Member States for the organisation of their education systems and their teaching content, as well as their linguistic diversity and cultural traditions;
- B. whereas the freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas without interference by public authority is protected by the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union;
- C. whereas the use of an undefined and potentially expanding concept of ‘European values’ in citizenship education risks blurring the distinction between the EU’s legally established fundamental values and contested political or societal positions;
- D. whereas it is the right of parents to ensure education and teaching in conformity with their own religious and philosophical convictions;
- E. whereas international student mobility risks becoming a gateway to wider migration,

¹ Home Office, Research and analysis, ‘Student route evaluation (wave 2)’, update May 2025, <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/student-route-evaluation-wave-2/student-route-evaluation-wave-2>.

including through family reunification, as illustrated by the UK student visa scandal, where study routes were misused to facilitate entry and residence beyond genuine educational purposes;

- F. whereas the continued decline in pupils' performance, as indicated by the PISA 2025 results, underlines the importance of a strong knowledge base as the foundation for developing lasting competences;
 - G. whereas Europe's humanist educational tradition, rooted in the intellectual heritage of ancient Greece and Rome, has profoundly shaped European culture and education;
 - H. whereas Europe's cultural heritage is deeply rooted in its Christian traditions; whereas the convictions of the many European parents who identify with Christianity should be duly respected in the development of educational initiatives;
 - I. whereas the preservation and transmission of Europe's cultural heritage to future generations, including its Christian heritage, must be an important objective of education;
- 1. Stresses that the European Schools Alliances must fully respect the responsibility of the Member States for the content of teaching and the organisation of education systems, as provided for in Article 165(1) TFEU;
 - 2. Demands that citizenship education under the European Schools Alliances remains politically pluralistic and respects the right of pupils to develop independent and critical judgements;
 - 3. Calls on the Commission to ensure that the concept of 'European values' is not used as an open-ended or discretionary category for promoting additional political, social or ideological positions, or extended beyond the values expressly enshrined in Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union through non-legislative instruments;
 - 4. Urges the Commission to ensure that the European Schools Alliances fully respect parents' rights to determine the religious, philosophical and pedagogical upbringing of their children, and that EU-funded educational initiatives, in particular regarding sexuality education, do not impose ideological or political approaches, including gender-related concepts, that disregard parental convictions;
 - 5. Demands that student exchanges under the European Schools Alliances are limited to the 27 Member States of the European Union and the European Economic Area countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, and do not extend to other non-EU countries;
 - 6. Calls on the Commission to place the acquisition of solid subject knowledge and foundational skills at the centre of its educational initiatives, recognising that well-founded knowledge is the essential basis for developing higher-order competences, critical thinking and independent judgement, and to avoid approaches that prioritise generic competences at the expense of substantive learning;
 - 7. Demands that the European Schools Alliances strengthen mathematics, natural sciences,

technology and engineering, building on strong foundations in literacy and numeracy and strengthening links between school-based science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education and vocational training, as essential foundations for Europe's economic competitiveness, technological sovereignty and capacity for innovation in key future technologies;

8. Calls on the Commission to support educational approaches that preserve and promote the study of classical languages, literature, philosophy and history, recognising their contribution to linguistic proficiency, logical reasoning, historical understanding and critical thought, and to ensure that the European Schools Alliances contribute to safeguarding Europe's classical intellectual and cultural heritage;
9. Urges the Commission to ensure that the European Schools Alliances support the preservation and transmission of Europe's cultural heritage, including its Christian heritage, and fully respect the cultural, historical and religious traditions of the Member States;
10. Calls on the Commission to ensure that any new structures established under the European Schools Alliances provide clear and demonstrable added value compared with existing Erasmus+ instruments, are cost-efficient and respect the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality, avoiding unnecessary duplication and administrative burdens;
11. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, and the governments and parliaments of the Member States.