



Brussels 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022  
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**For the Attention of the Members of the  
European Schools' Community**

Dear Members of the European Schools' Community,

Today, it is the second time in this school year that I address the members of the whole European Schools' Community.

In the very moment, when we all are feeling for the first time since months some relief with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are facing a new crisis in the Ukraine, a neighbor country in the middle of Europe which goes beyond the imagination of many of us. Again, imperturbable convictions and principles are deeply afflicted.

I think this is felt by all of us. By those among us, who - like me - are born and have grown up in times when Europe was divided and those among us who have grown up in a unified Europe like our pupils. I can only imagine how unsure, distressed, but also furious you, our pupils/our children may be at this very moment.

As Secretary-General of the European Schools I encourage all members of staff to provide our pupils with the necessary support and reassurance in this very difficult moment. I know this is not an easy task, as we might feel destabilised as well.

However, it is within our mission to promote young Europeans and to provide our pupils with the necessary competences to build bridges and overcome what might segregate human beings. Therefore, in this very moment and more than ever, we all should jointly promote the values of the European Schools, such as mutual respect, tolerance, respect of cultural and other diversity and the strong belief in a peaceful settlement of conflicts.

I am deeply convinced that together we will also overcome this difficult moment when our thoughts and compassion are with all who are suffering from this terrible conflict within the middle of Europe.

With my best wishes,

**Andreas BECKMANN**  
Secretary-General