



H.E. Ms. MARIYA GABRIEL – Commissioner
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
1049 Brussels
Belgium

Madrid, May 18, 2020.

H.E. Ms.:

First, I want to wish you and your family good health.

Both the Catholic Confederation of Parents and Students -**CONCAPA**-, which currently represents more than 3.5 million families and is present in some 3,000 educational centres throughout Spain, and the Spanish Confederation of Associations of Alumni of Catholic Education -**CEAAAEC**- and the World Catholic Education Alumni Organization -**OMAEC**-, as we are present in over 300,000 centres around the world and represent just over 150 million Alumni/Ae, we did not have the opportunity to meet with the Minister of Education, Isabel Celaá, to explain our demands and make our contributions to the new Education Bill currently being considered by the Spanish Congress of Deputies.

It is in our spirit to achieve a genuine social and political pact in this decisive task. We are striving to achieve the greatest possible consensus and the widest possible acceptance by all the sectors that make up the educational community and, consequently, society.

We would like to inform you, although we understand that you are aware of the new maneuver carried out by the current Spanish Government. The actions of the MEFP - Ministry of Education and Vocational Training show a clear intention to "impose" without dialogue and consensus the new Organic Law of Education LOMLOE, which is currently awaiting its parliamentary treatment and whose approval wants to be accelerated at all costs, even while still undergoing the state of alarm decreed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Unfortunately, this is once again a unilateral action that does not respect all the paradigms of a consolidated democracy, for reasons that are clearly obvious. It is serious that a consensus is neither sought nor desired among all members of the educational community.

Moreover, the new law was drafted without considering the directives adopted by the European Parliament in Strasbourg. Two years ago, the directive "**Updating Education in the European Union**" was approved by all member countries as part of the 2015-2020 education plan. This directive has already been implemented in several European countries, such as Poland, with remarkable success in its development.

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As can be seen, both in the way it acts and in the content of the law, the Spanish Government wants to introduce a new dismemberment of Spain in the historical and religious aspects and of the enormous wealth handed down by our elders. They are seeking accelerated indoctrination into clearly destructive and controversial trends in the education of students, our children.

As a result, the new law contains discriminations and inequalities, excludes a large part of society on the basis of clearly political approaches, adds a sectarian model which breaks any possibility of agreement and consensus and, of course, without foreseeing the current situation we are experiencing, which will oblige us, in a very short period of time, to have to modify and update the current form of education.

Special mention should be made of schools, universities and special education centres, which are also threatened with closure, as students from these centres are gradually being transferred to the regular general system. This decision has been taken not only without the parents, but also without the means and resources needed to provide personal attention to these students and their families, a real absurdity.

The new regulations that the current government wants to impose proposes an education system that is contrary to the freedom of education, choice and the religious and moral freedom of families; despite the fact that it is contained in **Article 18.4** of the United Nations General Assembly, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966. The consequences are unpredictable in the immediate future. Moreover, in our opinion, the fundamental rights and freedoms, affirmed in **Article 27** of the Spanish Constitution and **Article 26** of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are being violated.

The violation of all these rights and fundamental freedoms generates real and effective discrimination between families, which directly affects:

1.- Compulsory and free education. This principle of equality and equity is not respected by families who freely choose between the public network - which is totally free - and the social initiative network - which is accredited - where the State only funds part of its operating costs.

2.- The free choice of families. The freedom of families to choose the educational institution that is closest to their religious and moral convictions is violated. Furthermore, it does not respect the supranational agreements signed between the Spanish State and the Holy See, as well as those signed with other international organizations.

3.- Investments and educational resources. The complementarity of the two networks is not encouraged in the shared use of educational resources between teachers and



schools, regardless of the network to which they belong and always for the benefit of students who, being minors, should be better protected because of their vulnerability and lack of defence.

4.- Discrimination against families. Families without economic resources are denied the right to freely choose an educational network other than that of the State, which limits and nullifies their fundamental rights and freedoms.

5.- Lack of adequate attention to students with special needs. The gradual transfer of this student body to the regular network would create a real pedagogical discrimination of this group, teachers and auxiliary personnel working for their integration and autonomy. It is the special education centres that are prepared to interact with this body of students. The economic strangulation of these schools will result in these students and their families dropping out of school. A more open gap on the part of a supposedly "progressive" government.

These are some of the negative consequences that would result. **For all these reasons, we would like to ask for your support and the possibility of presenting our actions to the European Parliament, with your help, so that they are known, and this regrettable situation can be ended.** A law which, furthermore, will create a huge and new setback for education in our country.

We have all the necessary documentation to support the statements made and are therefore at your disposal for any further clarification you may require.

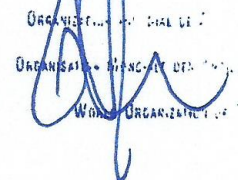
We wish you every success in your constant service to Spain at the European institutions.

Best regards.

Madrid, May 18, 2020



Signed: Mr. Pedro José Caballero Garcia
National President of CONCAPA



Signed: Mr. José Antonio Cecilia
President CEAEEC & OMAEC