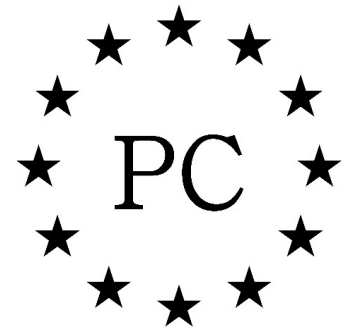


Half-year report of the Pupils' Committee 2022-2023



Written by Georg Poensgen (President), Filipa Gesinski (Vice-President), Nella Nissinen (Vice-President)

With the first half of this school year coming to an end, we want to summarize our work, events and projects during the first half of this school year as well as share our visions for the future. Through various events, projects and discussions with the school's stakeholders we strive to improve your life at school. The report – in a condensed form – will also be available on our social media channels. Here is what we have achieved so far:

Events:

After a series of difficult years facing COVID, this year we have aimed to offer our students of all different grades unforgettable events that bring the school community closer together. In the first half of the year alone, the PC was able to organise four events for our students.

- **Halloween 16+ Party:** The first event of the school year took place on 21.10.2022 at Melusina with more than 600 students celebrating Halloween together.
- **Santa's Dancefloor S1-S3 Christmas Disco:** A month later we organised the Christmas Disco for the S1-S3 students on 25.11.2022, which had an incredibly high demand this year. Together with LUX 2, 500 students attended, with many students expressing their enjoyment and eagerness for similar events in the future. Together we were able to raise 1000€ for our local charity club "Actions Sans Frontières".
- **S4-S5 "Winter Prom":** The PC started the new calendar year of 2023 with the organisation of the S4-S5 Prom on 14.01.2023 together with LUX 2. The event took place in "Schapp" with students being able to enjoy unlimited soft drinks and snacks throughout the whole night, and celebrating the end of their exams.
- **S1-S3 Valentine's Disco:** Last but not least, we fulfilled the eagerness of the younger years and organised a second disco for the S1-S3 grades on 10.02.2023 with the help of the Backstage technical team. The PC hired a professional DJ, and the 400 students who attended enjoyed the Valentine's spirits thanks to the face painting station, snack sales, decorations, and the photobooth provided by the Yearbook Committee.

Spirit Days:

With a variety of Spirit Days, we were able to raise awareness to relevant issues while at the same time providing fun changes to the average school day, with the school community celebrating together.

- **Halloween Dress Up Day:** The school year started with the Halloween Dress Up Day on 27.10.2022, where students came to school in their spookiest outfits.

- **World's Children Day – Blue Day:** In cooperation with UNICEF, the PC organised a “Blue Day” on 18.11.2022. We invited the students to wear clothes in the colour blue to join the movement and show our support for children's rights.
- **Cozy Christmas & Cocoa Concert:** During the Christmas season we organised “Cozy Christmas”, where students could attend school in Christmas sweaters and pyjamas. To support the Christmas spirit, we additionally organised a “Cocoa Concert” during the 20-minute break. Students, as well as teachers, could get a hot chocolate while enjoying a Christmas concert.
- **Valentine's Day – Activities:** On the day before and on Valentines' Day itself, we organised multiple activities to celebrate the festival of love together. The day prior to Valentine's Day, we organised a sale for secret rose deliveries, which allowed students to order rose deliveries, delivered by the PC members, to their special someone on the actual Valentine's Day itself. In addition, we held the “Formal Valentine's Day” and a rose stand for students to buy roses on Valentine's Day.

Promoting student participation:

Junior Pupils' Committee (JPC): Given the lack of awareness among young students about their possibilities within the school to have their voices heard and how they can contribute to school, we decided to start a new initiative called the “Junior Pupils' Committee”. The JPC provides young students in S1-S3 with a platform to participate in decision-making processes, have their voices heard, and learn more about what the PC is doing. More information can be accessed via the detailed concept paper: <https://bio.pupilscom-esl1.eu/jpc>

Extracurricular Awareness Week:

In order to improve the visibility and accessibility of the countless extracurricular school activities, be it sports, arts or other students' clubs, the PC organised a social media campaign (accessible via our Instagram account) informing our students about different extracurriculars at the school.

Representing the students' interests:

Our key priority as the student body is to represent the students in the best and most efficient way possible. Through many and regular meetings with the management of our school, teachers, the Parents' Association (APEEL1) and other stakeholders, we gave students problems, wishes and visions of the future a voice. We thank all the students who regularly provide us with suggestions and feedback, we could not do our work without you!

Here are a few examples of what has been discussed and achieved so far:

- **Well-Being Council:** We have successfully demanded the creation of a well-being council with all the stakeholders of the school community represented, allowing the students to voice their opinions and needs regarding the current state of mental health. This way, students can evaluate the schools' progress on their actions concerning the students' well-being.
- **Cross Country:** The Cross Country and its negative implications for many of our students remains on the agenda of the PC after last year's survey, which showed that this issue cannot be left unaddressed. In various meetings with the school's stakeholders, we have called for the replacement of the Cross Country by other alternatives that satisfy both teachers and students. You can access our latest proposal, presented to the recent Educational Council, via <http://bio.pupilscom-esl1.eu/cross-country>

- Grading disparities: Given many complaints from students concerning grade disparities between classes, subjects and language sections, we advocate for publicly available grade statistics between language sections, subjects, and years. Only these statistics would allow us to identify these essential disparities in grading and to fight for more fairness across classrooms.
- Homework policy: Discussed and finalised last year, the [Homework Policy](#) finally entered into force this school year of 2022/2023. The purpose of the Homework Policy is to provide fairer conditions of assignments and homework for secondary students and incentivise communication between students and teachers.
- Cooperation with CNEL: We are excited to announce that the PC – starting this year – officially acts as observing member of the national Luxembourgish student union, Conférence Nationale des Élèves du Luxembourg (CNEL). Thus, we will not only be able to raise our students' interests on an intereuropean level (through CoSup), but also on a national level (through CNEL).

Improving Career Guidance – S5 Orientation:

In cooperation with the Orientation Coordinator Mr. Duncombe, the PC organised class visits from S6 and S7 students during the S5 orientation classes to advise students regarding their subject choices for the BAC-cycle, resulting in both positive feedback from S5 students and increased efficiency of the guidance periods.

School merchandise:

Again, this year we sold hundreds of merch products provided by a local, eco-responsible printing company, supplying the school with clothes that unite the school spirit while remaining a diversity of product types and colours. We thank the many students who submitted their design ideas for the hoodie, leading to this years' final unique design. Orders were also accepted through a new user-friendly and efficient web store developed by our IT member.

Cooperating within the school community:

- **Exchange with LGBTQ+ and Friends Group** to continuously promote inclusivity and tolerance
- Cooperation with **S-Team** in order to coordinate bake sales and other charity activities
- Promotion of many school clubs through our **Extracurricular Awareness Week**

Investing in the community:

As a non-profit organisation, our money belongs to our students and to the community. Thus, our expenses are aimed to either support school internal projects, which improve our students' lives, or to help the ones in need. Together, we regularly, as a school community, achieve to donate generous sums for important causes:

- A total of 1400€ were donated to the school's local charity organisation Actions Sans Frontières (400€ going to their charity projects in Turkey and Syria) through the money collected at the two S1-S3 discos and other events.
- Donations of both 210€ each to the Red Cross and Think Pink Europe, a foundation focused on supporting women with breast cancer.
- 700€ to UNICEF for their activities in helping the population in the regions affected by the earthquake in Turkey and Syria.

What else are we currently working on?

- 2nd Edition of the Well-Being Week
- Sports Tournament with a new dedicated website
- Ecological Art Competition “Art for the Earth” on the occasion of FAMES
- Second Hand Sale in school
- Euronight Party on the 18th of March for S6-S7
- This year’s edition of LuxFactor
- Expanding the bathrooms with menstrual products in school
- And of course, a couple more events for S1-S3 and S4-S5!

The Pupils’ Committee looks forward to an eventful and promising second half of the year and we hope to achieve more and fulfill our promise to represent you all in the best way possible. We always remain open for suggestions, questions, or concerns – whether you are a Class Representative or not – so do not hesitate to contact us when needed. Our contact details are in the footer of this page.

Your Pupils’ Committee of 2022-2023.

**Pupils' Committee members of the European School of Luxembourg 1
2022-2023**

Name	Position
Georg POENSGEN (S7DE)	President
Filippa GESINSKI (S7DE)	Vice-President
Nella NISSINEN (S6FI)	Vice-President
Fay OOTES (S7NL)	CoSup Representative
Sofia GRABENWARTER (S6DE)	CoSup Representative
Nora KPALOB (S6DE)	Treasurer
Vanessa VOLMICH (S6DE)	Treasurer
Karolis MIKALAUSKAS (S7FR)	Council Representative
Michaela VIDENOVA (S7EN)	Council Representative
Ella AIKALA (S6FI)	Council Representative
Ambre LESAUVAGE (S5FR)	Council Representative
Lucie BAUMGÄRTEL (S7DE)	Head of Public Relations
Eduardo HOLMES AREVALO (S6ES)	Public Relations
Martha WOLVEN (S5EN)	Public Relations
Rumen MITOV (S7EN)	Environmental Representative
Martin USHILOV (S7EN)	Secretary
Florian BRAUN (S7NL)	IT Member
Sophie SANTERRE (S7FR)	Head of Leisure Committee
Kiril TOCICKIJ (S7FR)	Leisure Committee Member
Filippa GRÖNBERG (S6SV)	Leisure Committee Member
Lola ZWOLSMAN (S5NL)	Leisure Committee Member
Sophia DE BRONETT (S6DE)	Leisure Committee Member