



EUROCLASSICA

*Fédération Européenne des Associations de Professeurs
de Langues et Civilisations Classiques*

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**Mr. José I. Wert
Ministry of Education
c/ Alcalá 2
28014-Madrid**

October, 15th, 2012

Dear Minister:

It is with a great disappointment that I inform you that the General Assembly of EUROCLASSICA, the european federation of associations of Teachers in Latin and Greek, has been informed about the new spanish curriculum concerning classical subjects into the frame of a new educational law.

As a matter of fact, **Greek will become nonexistent** and –even still worse- **Classical Civilisation will disappear** from the curriculum: that will mean in fact that spanish students will not have a chance to keep in touch with the values of the classical world.

This particular matter-Classical Civilisation –is extremely useful for european students. It is based on classical tradition in Europe; democracy, philosophy, theater, sport, were created in ancient Greece. At the same time Rome disseminated its *corpus iuris civilis* all over the ancient continent and even beyond. There is not any other subject at the moment in the curriculum able to present the moral and cultural values of Europe to all the european students. Being in touch with the roots of Europe they will be able to become excellent citizens, strong in mind and soul.

This is the reason why we beg you, to reinstaure into the new law the previously existing clause indicating **Cultura Clasica (Classical Civilisation) to be a subject compulsory offered as optional subject in every school of Spain**.

The wish of EUROCLASSICA is, no doubt, the subject to be compulsory for at least one year two hours a week in every country of Europe.

As for greek language it would be a pity if it would be left aside as a kind of marginalised subject into the humanistic branch of the curriculum at High School. Spanish students are brilliant in european contests in **Ancient Greek**; spanish teachers participate and are actively involved in lots of activities of european dimension concerning greek; modern greek is a european language spoken by many spanish teachers in ancient greek. It would be really difficult to understand **such a treasure to be wasted**.

EUROCLASSICA was created twenty one years ago in order to defend the permanence of classical subjects into the curricula of every country in Europe. We were, and we still are, aware that we had to fight to get our aims. We were sometimes

successful sometimes unsuccessful when suggesting and speaking to ministers of education all over Europe. Our last successful experience was in Lithuania, August 2012 when the Minister of Education at the opening ceremony of our 21st Annual Conference declared he was very proud of having learnt classics at Vilnius University. Mr. Steponavicius promised Latin and Greek together with Classical Civilisation would increase its presence at the Lithuanian curriculum.

We are absolutely sure, Professor Wert, that Spain will not miss the train leading to the best moral values of Europe. This is why we beg you to do your best to keep classical studies at Secondary School the same as they are at this particular moment. If the new educational project remains untouched, an unvaluable damage will be suffered by a new generation of Spanish European students.

We kindly ask you to reconsider the scheme for a new curriculum

Kindly yours

José Luis Navarro

President of EUROCLASSICA

Together with all the members represented by 25 associations of Classical Studies in Europe listed below.