

Honourable Minister

Mr Prodromos Prodromos

Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport and Youth (MECSY)

10 February 2020

Subject: **Inadequacy of the one (1) t.p. for Biology in 1st Form Lyceum - Unfair treatment of Biology**

Honourable Minister,

Cyprus Biological Society (VEK), as the responsible scientific society representing the Cyprus Biological Scientists, congratulates you on assuming your duties as the new Minister and wishes you every success in your work and the achievement of your goals and priorities.

We communicate with you about the biology teaching periods (t.p.) of the 1st Form Lyceum. As the responsible science company for Biology in Cyprus, we receive daily complaints from students, parents of children attending the 1st Form of Lyceums and Biology teachers that **one (1) t.p. in which Biology is taught is inadequate. We live in the century of Biology** where applications of biology are observed in all facets of life, health and the environment, and this should be reflected in the timetable. The problem is most evident in the students of OMP2 (Sciences) of the First Form **where all other subjects are taught in 2 t.p. whereas Biology which is an Orientation Subject and examined for these students is taught in only 1 t.p.** We consider this to be a distortion of the timetable given that students of OMP2 (Sciences) and OMP4 (Services) students will largely pursue Biology in Second and Third Forms and later pursue studies and careers in Biology, bio-medical and more relevant professions. Therefore, teaching them Biology is very important to them. In addition, **Biology is the only subject taught in 1 t.p.** (excluding Art and Music courses), **since all other subjects are taught in at least 2 t.p.** In addition, the current situation constitutes **discrimination against Biology** since from the subjects of Natural Sciences (Physics, Chemistry, Biology), **Biology is the only science subject taught only one (1) t.p., while Physics and Chemistry are taught in 2 t.p. (+2 t.p. for Physics in OMP2) resulting in distortions in the calculation of the final grade of students and in parity between science courses.**

For the above reasons, we consider that it is necessary to change the number of teaching periods for Biology for the 1st Form of Lyceums, **from 1 t.p. to 2 t.p.** like in all other subjects. This change is for the **benefit of our students**, it does **not entail any additional financial costs** for the Ministry and is the least that can be done to **improve the current situation and remove this distortion in the existing timetable for the 1st Form of Lyceums.**

We consider the above change **necessary** and will appreciate it if a **meeting is arranged with you** as soon as possible to give you more details and specific suggestions on the subject.

**We remain at your disposal to arrange a meeting.**

Yours' sincerely,

Dr Andreas Hadjihampis

President CBC, tel.: 99477309

Mikis Hadjineophytou

Secretary CBS

Also sent to:

Chairman and Members of the Parliamentary Committee on Education

Confederation of Parents of Secondary Education

Secondary Parents' Federations of all Districts

Association of Biological Teachers of OELMEK

Panyprian Student Coordination Committee

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