

# Transcript of message from Mr. Brochet, AEFÉ Director

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear students,

2020 is starting and I want to **wish you**, on my behalf and on behalf of the entire AEFÉ management team, **a very Happy New Year**. May it bring you all the satisfactions and happiness for you, your family and all those who are dear to you. I also express my best wishes of success for our students and our schools.

We are entering this new year 2020 with **confidence** for our network. The strong resumption of its development at the **start of the 2019 school year**, with **more than 13,000 additional students**, is an evidence of this.

I am not unaware, however, of the **difficulties** that you encounter in several parts of the world and I want to express to the teams, families, our lycée students, lycées in Haiti, Venezuela, Lebanon, in several Latin American countries and Africa, touched in the last months by **collective or individual dramas**, our **solidarity** and our attention to support them in these difficult times.

I also know that throughout the network, the efforts required from each and every one of you have been significant. This year was a demanding pivotal year. The Agency had to continue implementing the **employment plan** covering the **2018-2020 period** which has a heavy impact on many schools. I do not ignore it.

The teams were nevertheless able, despite everything, to take up the major **challenges** before us: **implementation of the baccalaureate reform, development of new international sections**. The important and very successful symposium we organised in November on **inclusive school** also showed that in many schools in the network, management teams, teachers and families are mobilising in remarkable ways.

Thank you, therefore, to all of you who make this unique network an **international benchmark** and an **exceptional laboratory for national education**. Thank you in particular to the **teachers** for their professionalism and their commitment to the **service of the students**, their **well-being** and their **success** within the framework of an inclusive school which carries high the **French educational values**: freedom of thought, critical mind, citizen training, gender equality.

Thank you also to the **parents of students** for their trust and support.

Thanks to all of you, the foundations are solid for **building the future of French education abroad** for which the President of the Republic has mobilised us.

2020 will be the first year of this **ambitious decade** that we must embark on by following this **2030 course** which was set for us on 3<sup>rd</sup> October by the Ministers of Europe and of Foreign Affairs and of National Education and Youth.

In 2020, we will be fully committed to the **development plan for French education abroad** which will place **students and staff at the heart of our actions**. The attractiveness of our system is based on our ability to **consolidate the educational excellence** of existing schools and to adapt our educational offer to the **expectations of students**. **Maternelle, the new baccalaureate, multilingualism** are all assets to position us in this competitive international environment. The **schools**, schools under direct management, schools under agreement, partner schools, with all their staff, will be, with the parents, the major players in this development. On this basis, and on the strength of collaborative work, the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs and the AEFÉ presented the **new objectives and means contract** to school partners on 10 December.

One of the essential challenges in 2020 is to **make our schools more visible and to publicise the excellence of our educational systems**, by valuing the **successes** of the network and of each French educational school abroad in order to **convince new families that they can find in French education the answers to their expectations**.

The **celebration of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the AEFÉ** is an opportunity to conduct together, throughout the year, an innovative communication. We will all be mobilised to highlight our work and this extraordinary success of the network created 30 years ago.

Numerous **unifying projects**, such as the **8<sup>th</sup> edition of aspiring Ambassadors** organised in the Senate, the **6<sup>th</sup> edition of the Orchestra of the French lycées of the world** to be held in April at the **Maison de la Radio**, or the **10<sup>th</sup> edition of International Youth Games in Chicago**, without forgetting of course the ceremony of the Excellence Major scholarship recipients that we will organise in June at **Sciences Po**, will be as many opportunities to decline the educational know-how, the professionalism of the teams and the creativity of the students of the network. We will also take advantage of these celebrations to honour the former students of the network who act daily, in solidarity, for the network and our students within the **Agora Monde** and **ALFM** platforms.

Let's all mobilise together, throughout this year, in the 522 schools of the network to **promote French education abroad**.

Hoping to have the pleasure of meeting you on the occasion of the implementation of these many projects, I send my **best wishes for the year 2020** to all the members of the school communities of the French education network abroad.

Happy New Year everyone!