Dear colleagues, teachers, students and parents,

It is with extraordinary heart felt sadness that I write this letter today, on behalf of the Officers, Executive Board, staff and members of Education International. The news of the untimely and tragic loss of so many young children and their teachers is difficult to comprehend.

We hope and expect our children and teachers to be safe in school and in their learning environment. When accidents occur which are unexpected and beyond our control we feel powerless and helpless.

We send our deepest condolences to the school communities who have been directly affected by this tragedy and particularly to the families who have lost a child, sibling or partner.

With our deepest sympathy,

Fred van Leeuwen
General Secretary

Brussels, 14th March 2012