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Accusations concerning VP 4's academic qualifications are without foundation

Dear Colleagues,

the results of an investigation into allegations concerning the academic qualifications of the Vice-President DG 4, Mr Topić, have just been published (see <u>intranet announcement</u>). This was the first case filed under the Investigation Guidelines which entered in to force on 1 January this year and it has now been examined and brought to a conclusion.

This investigation gives a very clear illustration of how the Guidelines provide an effective means of protecting staff, irrespective of grade, from malicious attacks.

The investigation concludes that the accusations concerning Mr Topić's academic qualifications are entirely without foundation.

It has also become clear that anonymous letters and mails containing these baseless accusations have been actively circulated by members of EPO staff, whose precise identity has not yet been established.

It must be a matter of deep regret for us all that we have among us individuals capable of such conduct.

Benoît Battistelli

President

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