INTERNATIONALE GEWERKSCHAFT IM EUROPÄISCHEN PATENTAMT STAFF UNION OF THE EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE UNION SYNDICALE DE L'OFFICE EUROPEEN DES BREVETS



Zentraler Vorstand

Central Executive Committee

Bureau central

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# Office-Wide Staff Survey 2022 Organised by SUEPO

Dear SUEPO members, dear Colleagues,

In 2010 and 2013 the Central Staff Committee (CSC) carried out an office-wide scientific survey on psychosocial risks at work, prepared by Technologia<sup>1</sup> Paris. SUEPO carried out the same survey in 2016 (since Mr Battistelli had prevented the CSC to organise the survey in house), and a fourth edition in March 2020 just at the onset of the pandemia.

Two years of pandemia down the line, after three lock downs and huge implications for the well-being of each of us, time has come for a follow-up. Although this announcement is published by SUEPO, **it is addressed to <u>all</u> staff of the EPO** – not only to SUEPO members. Please read the following background, and you will understand why.

The logistics will be the same as in 2020. Please read the following instructions carefully if, as we hope, you intend to participate.

### BACKGROUND

In May 2020, President Campinos carried out a survey in parts directed to psychosocial risks and the capability of staff to cope with the pandemia. A follow-up was promised which took place in October 2020, nota bene before the 2nd lock-down. However, there were merely some questions directed to psycho-social risks, whereas the main part of the survey was devoted to explore the acceptance of staff with regard to tele-working. The follow-up of the office survey concentrated on the "5 personae" to prepare new teleworking guidelines. Despite the result of about 25% of staff indicating not doing well in this survey, no further follow-up was organized by the office. The CSC asked the office a multitude of times to do so, in vain.

<sup>1</sup> 

Technologia is a renowned company specialised in identifying, assessing, preventing and/or reducing professional risks in all types of organisations. Technologia is certified by the French Ministry of Labour. Technologia is bound by professional secrecy and complies with the EU General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679

In spite of the CSC request, Mr Campinos did not authorise the CSC to organise the fifth edition of the Technologia Staff Survey in house.

Considering the situation, SUEPO has decided to take over the responsibility of running a follow-up survey in 2022, again through Technologia. The survey will be virtually identical to those of 2020, 2016, 2013 and 2010 to allow for reliable comparisons, and will be run between 30 March and 15 April 2022.

SUEPO is still banned from using the EPO electronic channels. The EPO may also be monitoring computer usage and possibly register who is taking part in the survey. Therefore, it has been decided to run the survey externally, so as to allow for complete anonymity and safety, as was already the case in 2016 and 2020. SUEPO has contacted the company **BigPulse** to send out the invitations to the survey. You will receive a unique access code with which you can log into a dedicated website from your own computer or your mobile phone. You will not need to use the Office computer, so the EPO will not know whether or not you have participated in the survey.

### LOGISTICS

All staff who decide to participate in the survey will receive their personal unique access code via their private email (not the EPO work email). If you want to participate, you must ensure that we have your private email.

1. If you are a SUEPO member and your private email is already in our file, you will automatically receive your personal access code – unless you opt out. If you want to opt out, please write to your local section (<u>Berlin</u>, <u>Munich</u>, <u>The Hague</u> or <u>Vienna</u>) before 30 March 2022, with clear instructions.

2. If you are not a SUEPO member <sup>2</sup> and wish to participate in the survey, please send the following information to epostaffsurvey2022@suepo.org (preferably) before 30 March:

- Your name, surname, and place of employment (MU, TH, BE, VI)<sup>3</sup>,
- Your private email address you want us to use.

### Please note:

a) By providing your private email address, you give SUEPO permission to incorporate it in an electronic file, which will be used **exclusively** for sending you the personal access code and possible reminder(s) to take part in the survey. No further information will be recorded in the file.

b) Both SUEPO and Technologia will keep the data received strictly confidential. All emails sent to **epostaffsurvey2022@suepo.org**, all data contained therein, and the electronic file mentioned above will be destroyed as soon as the survey is closed.

# Your opinion matters.

# You have the opportunity to express it safely.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> or if you are a SUEPO member but have not yet given us your private email

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> These data will only be used to make sure you are a staff member and that you do not participate twice in the survey.