

Communiqué PD 0.6

20.06.2013

Outcome of Investigation into allegations against VP4

Over the last months, a vigorous campaign of allegations has taken place against the person of Vice President DG 4, Mr. Željko Topić, via anonymous mailings, leaflets, and the internet. These appear to be aimed at harming the good reputation and person of Mr. Topić. Considering his general duty of care to protect members of EPO staff under malicious attack, the President referred the matter to me for review pursuant to the Investigation Guidelines.

Some of these same allegations were also brought in good faith by staff to the attention of PD 0.6, in accordance with Circular No. 342. The EPO Investigative Unit conducts internal administrative investigations that concern the Office's activities, the scope of which are defined in Circular No. 342. The allegations brought against Mr. Topić included one major aspect which falls fully in the scope of the work of the investigative unit, namely, the allegation that an academic certificate which he had submitted to the EPO upon his recruitment had been falsified. The investigative unit in D 0.6.1 subsequently conducted an extensive and thorough review of those allegations that fall within its remit, and submitted a report of its findings to the President of the Office and to the Chairman of the Administrative Council, the Council being in this case the appointing authority.

The investigation demonstrated that all aspects of the allegations pertaining to an alleged falsification of academic credentials are baseless.

Numerous original documents from the University of Banja Luka and Mr. Topić - university matriculation records, state pension records, a certificate, a diploma, and the original copy of Mr. Topić 's thesis as submitted to the University - demonstrate, beyond any doubt, that Mr. Topic obtained a Master of Economics and Business Administration in 1989. The investigators confirmed the veracity of these documents at their source, the University of Banja Luka, in Bosnia Herzegovina.

Prof. Dr. Stanko Stanić, the Rector of the University of Banja Luka (also former Dean of the Faculty of Economics) confirmed in a personal meeting with the investigators, held at the university, that Mr. Topić had successfully completed the Master's programme. He also informed the investigators that the Master's course, based on the nature and content, would now be classified as a Master in Economics and Business Administration.

It is finally noted that no factual evidence was presented to substantiate any other allegations against Mr. Topić.

Florian Andres
PD Internal Audit and Oversight

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