



UNION SYNDICALE FEDERALE

des Services publics européens et internationaux

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Brussels, 14 November 2016

Attention to :

The President of the EPO Administrative Council

Dear Mr Kongstad,

Union Syndicale Fédérale (USF) is again deeply shocked hearing about the latest, disproportionate dismissal of a trade union official at the European Patent Office (EPO) in November 2016.

USF already brought to your attention that the dismissals and other harsh measures against three trade union representatives at the EPO in January 2016 were entirely unacceptable under the reported circumstances.

As we are still waiting for an adequate response from the side of the Administrative Council of the EPO and the Member States of the EPO to the January 2016 incidents, a new dismissal at the EPO is again broadly reported upon in the media.

So far, the only possible conclusion is that the Administrative Council of the EPO, the Member States of the EPO and the European Union bodies seem to be approving this policy unworthy of democratic states in the 21st Century. The reputation of the EPO and the European international public service as a whole are being seriously stained, but the Member States do not appear to be worried.

The concerned trade union representatives, the staff of the EPO and the public as a whole urgently need the reassurance that the recent staff policy at the EPO is not in line with the labour and rule of law standards upheld in Europe and advocated outside Europe by the Member States and the European Union.

Once more, USF urgently calls upon the EPO Administrative Council and all institutional actors at European level to achieve the suspension of the decisions taken against trade union representatives at the EPO.

Yours sincerely,



Bernd LOESCHER
USF President

Cc: Ms Bieńkowska, Commissioner (Internal Market)
Cc: Mr Frans Timmermans, Commissioner (Justice)
Cc: Mr Thomas Händel, MEP (social affairs)
Cc: Ms Jongerius, MEP (social affairs)
Cc: Mr. Goudriaan, Secretary General, EPSU
Cc: SUEPO, the Staff Union of the EPO
Cc: EPO President, Mr B. Battistelli