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Mr António Campinos President of the EPO

By email

OPEN LETTER

European Patent Office 80298 Munich Germany

Central Staff Committee Comité central du personnel Zentraler Personalausschuss

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Consultation on "New management of office space" et al.

Dear Mr President,

The May MAC report of 2 June 2022 mentions the project "Bringing Teams Together" which foresees a new management of office space allegedly "to ensure that teams cluster in our buildings when working onsite".

Meetings have already taken place during which the project has already presented to staff, including the new management of office space. Many staff have expressed their concerns about a new way of working, which will concretely shape their daily work on site and make it more cumbersome. Indeed, this project introduces very deep changes in their working conditions. This new management was not addressed at all when Circular No.419 was consulted on. Thus, consultation is not optional prior to its entry into force.

Furthermore, this "new management" definitely requires a consistent approach in all places of employment, with a sound legal basis and a formal decision with an identifiable signatory. None of these basic requirements have been met so far.

In conclusion, the CSC urgently demands that:

- The "new management of office space", and any other project implementing Circular No.419 that management might have up its sleeve, be discussed with the Staff Representation;
- Prior to entry into force, statutory consultation take place in the GCC and in the COHSEC, in accordance with Articles 38 and 38a ServRegs.

Alain Dumont

Chairman of the Central Staff Committee

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