

Employees European Patent Office take action against culture of fear

Tomorrow afternoon, Thursday, November 24th, employees of the European Patent Office (EPO) will rally against its Director, Mr Battistelli. They are supported in by the FNV (The largest Dutch union, with over a million members. PK). The employees have been suffering under the yoke of this director for years. Under the slogan "Enough is enough 'employees will demonstrate tomorrow at Square 1813, the Independence Square, in The Hague.

With this demonstration they call Secretary Martijn van Dam (Economic Affairs) to take action against Benoit Battistelli, which governs the EPO with an iron fist, and the fear culture he has created.

Date: Thursday, November 24

Time: 12:00

Location: Plein 1813, The Hague

The European Patent Office staff, a European organization located in Rijswijk, it was to live and work under the director. Battistelli rules with an iron fist and tolerates no participation or contradiction. He dismisses people at will, placing them back in office press unilaterally implements changes to working conditions and demotivates if the entire organization. FNV supports the employees.

"Surely it cannot be so that the Dutch government allows such abuses on its own territory? If this type of abuse had occurred at a Dutch employer, the world had been too small (a Dutch expression meaning there would be outrage PK). Battistelli can not be allowed to hide behind immunity 'says Marieke Manschot, director FNV Government. "It is high time that State Secretary Van Dam State acts and stands up for the employees of the EPO. The FNV strongly supports these employees."

Court ruling

February last year, the Court in The Hague ruled Battistelli must abide by the rules and regulations as they are listed in the European Convention on Human Rights and the conventions of the International Labour Organisation (ILO). Battistelli, however, argues that the verdict is not enforceable on the basis of immunity. He has the support of the Dutch state. This indicates that the Dutch legal system can not intervene. "The Dutch government has a system of fear and arbitrariness on its home soil. This must stop, and as soon as possible, " concludes Manschot.

Source: <https://www.fnv.nl/over-fnv/pers/persberichten/persarchieef/2016/november/Medewerkers-European-Patent-Office-in-actie-tegen-angstcultuur/> (<https://www.fnv.nl/over-fnv/pers/persberichten/persarchieef/2016/november/Medewerkers-European-Patent-Office-in-actie-tegen-angstcultuur/>)