



Benoît Battistelli
Photo: AFP

Fruitless conversation with patent boss

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THE HAGUE/RIJSWIJK - Boss Benoit Battistelli is allegedly conducting a reign of terror at the European Patent Office, but a 'firm' conversation held with the top boss there by State Secretary Martijn van Dam (Economic Affairs) amounted to nothing. The European Patent Office is an international organisation with 38 member states, including all members of the European Union. There is a branch in Rijswijk.

"To my disappointment, this conversation did not result in any new insights," wrote Van Dam to the House of Representatives on Wednesday. Here, as in the cabinet, there are major concerns about the patent boss, described as 'tyrannical'. These are the concerns Van Dam tried in vain to convey on 4 March.

There will be an investigation into the working conditions at the patent office, Van Dam reported earlier this year. At that time, employees were protesting against the poor work environment and the dismissal of employees who had expressed criticism of Frenchman Battistelli. A reorganisation is under way at the office and the cabinet, as well as the House of Representatives, have already stated that this must be carried out more carefully.