

# **FREIE WÄHLER, Free Voters, want the European Patent Office to toe the line / Schmidt: Bavaria's status with regard to the protection of employees must be secured – and that means in the whole of Bavaria**

- By the [Editorial Board](#)
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Gabi Schmidt - [landtagsabgeordnete.eu](http://landtagsabgeordnete.eu)

(BWP) “Bavaria cannot stand idly by when in the European Patent Office, with its headquarters in Munich, human rights violations are being committed”, declares Gabi Schmidt, social policy spokesperson for the FREIE WÄHLER Free Voter fraction in the Landtag, Bavaria’s regional parliament. On the occasion of the meeting tomorrow of the Administrative Council of the European Patent Office, the FREIEN WÄHLER are seizing the initiative in support of the employees by tabling an emergency motion. In the light of the serious accusations being made by the staff against their employer, action needs to be taken – and taken rapidly. “Even if the European Patent Office is an institution which exists outside any particular state, we must not and cannot shirk our responsibility for what happens on Bavarian soil”, so Schmidt demands.

Employees have reported trickery and subterfuge: For example, the Patent Office is said to have made telephone calls or even unannounced visits, in cases where a staff member has reported sick, simply to check on whether they are really at home, which allegedly means that the person concerned is not even allowed to go for a walk. “There is no identifiable concordance here with German and Bavarian working standards”, says Schmidt, who goes on: “We are therefore calling on the State Government to commit, on a Federal and European level, to raising the employers’ standards. We FREIEN WÄHLER demand that our tried and trusted German and Bavarian standards also apply to the European Patent Office – without any ifs or buts.”

Source: [fw-landtag.de](http://fw-landtag.de)