

Schmidt/FREE VOTERS: Stop the Harassment of Staff at the European Patent Office

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Munich (ots) – Bullying of staff, inadequate standards of employee protection, constant strife between the management of the authority and their personnel: The scandal at the European Patent Office in Munich was again a hot topic among the FREIE WÄHLER (FREE VOTERS) contingent at today's sitting of the Bavarian Landtag, the regional parliament. "More and more of the people concerned are making themselves known to us. The misery and the pressure they are suffering is plainly so great that other staff members are overcoming their fear and are turning to us, the politicians", says Gabi Schmidt, social policy representative of the FREIE WÄHLER contingent in the Landtag.

This is also borne out by the demonstration planned for 9 June by employees, scheduled to finish at noon in front of the Bavarian Ministry of the Interior. Schmidt also criticises the facts that the grievances are far from over, and that the demands from the Administrative Council for improvements, according to anonymous communications from staff members, have still not been put into effect

This was why, as far back as mid-March, the FREIEN WÄHLER submitted an emergency motion before the State government for action to be taken at a national and European level to alleviate the intolerable circumstances being incurred. As an international organization, the European Patent Office does indeed enjoy immunity, but this can never amount to exemption from the protection of basic rights in Germany, Schmidt says.

Schmidt goes on: "Regardless of the outcome of the vote in the Landtag: We are not going to let this go, and we shall continue to stand up for the staff of the EPO. The fact that employees in Bavaria can be harassed in this way is unacceptable. We FREIEN WÄHLER aim to ensure that our valued and trusted German and Bavarian levels of employee protection also apply to the European Patent Office, without any ifs, ands, or buts."