

Temper, temper: The President of the EPO strikes again!

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Staff representative Laurent Prunier **has just been fired**, which makes one more! His offence? Having taken seriously his role of staff representative. When is this going to end? Let's be clear about it: **It's not going to happen until Benoît Battistelli goes**, the current President. How can a European organization of known and respected quality and efficiency maltreat its staff, without any respect for international labour law? True, the statutes of the EPO formally allow it to be exempt from the social legislation of the countries in which it is established, but does that make the Office a place not subject to law, or, rather, subject to an arbitrary reign of tyranny? **The answer clearly appears to be yes.** Suicides, sackings, staff harassment, spying, controlling – it's a nightmare!

Why is France not using its influence to remind Mr. Battistelli of his fundamental obligations and duties? The way he is behaving and the crisis in management resulting from this **are extremely damaging** for France's image, at the very moment when the EPO is having to face up to sharp competition in the field of intellectual property.

Benoît Battistelli must go if the European Patent Office is ever going to regain a social climate of peace and calm.