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THE HAGUE: The reforms at the European Patent Office (EPO) must be continued. Good progress has been made, but there is still too much that is not handled correctly at the institution, wrote State Secretary Martijn Van Dam (Economic Affairs) on Wednesday to the House.

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The EPO is an international organisation with 38 member states, including all members of the European Union. There is a large branch in Rijswijk. President Benoît Battistelli is allegedly conducting a reign of terror.

The financial situation at the EPO has improved significantly, according to research. But there are a lot of problems from a social perspective. There is a lack of trust between staff and management, the relationship with the trade unions is difficult and the internal disciplinary procedures are still unsatisfactory.

A trade-union official was recently dismissed again in Rijswijk. “This is not a good basis for repairing the social relationships,” according to Van Dam.

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