

'New abuses at European Patent Office'

The Netherlands Trade Union Confederation (FNV) is sounding the alarm on new abuses at the European Patent Office. According to the union, the European organisation, which is based in Rijswijk, is on the cusp of breaking Dutch law.

The patent office has plans to abolish the majority of permanent contracts.

The contracts for future employees will be replaced by temporary contracts with a maximum duration of five years, which is extendible. You can't simply do that here, states the FNV in a letter to Prime Minister Mark Rutte and Minister of Social Affairs and Employment Wouter Koolmees. The union believes that the government needs to intervene.

"The abuses at the European Patent Office are stacking up," says Tuur Elzinga, Vice Chair of the FNV. "We have already taken action along with the staff as the management were intimidating staff and critical individuals had been dismissed with immediate effect."