

Cynthia Matuszewski  
Journalistin  
Pressearbeit SUEPO  
(Staff Union of the European Patent Office)  
Germanenstraße 45  
86845 Großaitingen

Telefon + 49 (08203) 6453  
Fax + 49 (08203) 6276  
mail [cynthia.matuszewski@t-online.de](mailto:cynthia.matuszewski@t-online.de)  
mobile + 49 (0176) 860 688 07

***Press Release 30 June 2010***

***Benoît Battistelli takes office as the new President of the European Patent Office***

**Staff: Back to the EPO as a Civil Service Organisation**

(Munich, Brussels) On 1 July Benoît Battistelli (FR) succeeds Alison Brimelow (GB) as President of the European Patent Office (EPO). The Staff Union of the European Patent Office (SUEPO) welcomes Mr. Battistelli and is looking forward to a constructive cooperation.

During the last decade the EPO has drifted towards a vision of the Organisation predominantly as a "business" striving for "efficiency" in serving its "clients" (the applicants). This vision has alienated not only the majority of the staff of the EPO but increasingly also the public and the users of the system.

Mr. Battistelli has a solid background in public administration which SUEPO expects will help bringing the EPO back to its original role of serving the European public. SUEPO further hopes that Mr. Battistelli will allow for the much-needed improvement in the relations between the EPO administration on the one hand, and the EPO staff and their representatives on the other.

The following documents are available on the SUEPO public website: [www.suepo.org](http://www.suepo.org)

[CA/93/07](#) Governance of the EPO: a Staff perspective

[CA/94/09](#) Social partnership in the EPO

[CA/99/09](#) Statement of the Central Staff Committee concerning changes in the fee system

[CA/159/09 Rev. 1](#) and [Add. 1](#) From IFRS to IPSAS: making sense of the EPO's finances

[CA/180/09](#) Towards a Human Resource policy for the EPO

[CA/93/10](#) Worksharing from an examiner's perspective

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Tel +49 (0176) 860 688 07

Fax +49 (08203) 6276

[cynthia.matuszewski@t-online.de](mailto:cynthia.matuszewski@t-online.de) oder [matupress@t-online.de](mailto:matupress@t-online.de)