

## **Intervention of James Carver (UKIP - MEP)**

### **European Patent Office breaches human rights and claims immunity**

Source: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E79MpC1bR2c>

Transcript

“In Munich, the European Patent Office (EPO) under its current president Benoît Battistelli is disciplining SUEPO trade union officials for having the temerity to organise industrial action over human rights breaches.

Sick employees have been dismissed on purported trumped-up charges and there are accusations of discrimination against disabled people being refused employments.

The Dutch Court of Appeal ruled that the EPO had a case to answer over breaches of the human rights of staff but the EPO cited immunity and the Dutch government intervened to prevent the enforcement of the judgment.

What is truly shocking is that not only does the EPO appear immune towards both the ECHR and the Commission, but also this house who are handing it judicial authority in patents within the EU under the single European Patent.

How can we demand global respect of human rights when we allow such blatant breaches within an organisation shortly to exercise judicial functions on behalf of the EU?

Thank you.”

European Parliament, Strasbourg, 11 March 2015

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