



Harassment – In the EU-Parliament as well ...

17th January 2018



The wave of revelations on recent events reported in the media has prompted many women from all walks of life to break out of silence and make similar testimonies public.

The European Parliament, where we would expect our elected representatives to behave in an exemplary manner, is not spared, according to the numerous testimonies received on harassment. [Reactions](#) were forthcoming. On 23 October, on the eve of a plenary [debate](#) in Parliament on combating sexual harassment and abuse in the EU, a group of MEPs sent a message to Antonio Tajani, President of Parliament, asking him to formally condemn these acts and to ensure zero tolerance in this area. In the same message, the authors acknowledged the existence of cases of sexual harassment in Parliament, encouraged victims to break the silence and the Administration to take action, while calling on MEPS and agents to show solidarity with the victims.

In his [reply](#), President Tajani vigorously condemned these practices and took stock of the measures already in place in Parliament to counter harassment, against which he undertook to observe zero tolerance.

Its documented response also highlights the broader phenomenon of psychological harassment, which affects women and men indiscriminately, with consequences ranging from work-related discomfort to suicide and inability to work. In particular, we recall the known cases of [harassment at the Court of Auditors and the European Parliament](#), the first having been buried, the second having led to compensation for the two victims, not for harassment, but for unlawful dismissal and the EP's refusing to deal with their harassment complaints.

At its Dubrovnik Congress (2015), the **USF** made [harassment \(moral and sexual harassment\)](#) one of its priorities. To this end, the **USF** Federal Committee has set up a working group which should draw up a set of rules, inspired by the [most progressive legislation](#), on how to deal with complaints of harassment with a view to pushing for the establishment of legally binding internal rules in institutions, in order to ensure better protection and fairer treatment of agents.

Let us hope that the various initiatives currently being taken on this issue will contribute to the advancement of anti-harassment mechanisms in our institutions.



Union Syndicale Fédérale (USF)

www.unionsyndicale.eu , [workgroup harassment and psycho-social risks](#); usf@unionsyndicale.eu

Union Syndicale Service Public Européen – Bruxelles (BE); Union Syndicale Recherche – Ispra (IT); Union Syndicale Recherche – Karlsruhe (DE); Union Syndicale Recherche – Petten (NL); European Public Service Union Fusion – Bruxelles (BE); Union Syndicale Office Européen des Brevets – Berlin (DE) / Den Haag (NL); Syndicat des Agents du Conseil de l'Europe – Strasbourg (FR); Union Syndicale Eurocontrol France – Brétigny (FR); Union Syndicale Centre Européen pour le Développement de la Formation Professionnelle – Thessaloniki (EL); Union Syndicale European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions – Dublin (IE); Union Syndicale European Training Foundation – Torino (IT); Union Syndicale Institut Universitaire Européen – Firenze (IT); Union Syndicale European Agency for Safety & Health at Work – Bilbao (ES); International and Public Services Organisation – Frankfurt (DE); Union Syndicale Fédérale - Luxembourg (LU); European Public Service Union – Cour de Justice – Luxembourg (LU) ; Gewerkschaft des Deutsch-Französischen Jugendwerks – Paris (FR) / Berlin (DE); Union Syndicale Eurojust – Den Haag (NL) ; Union Syndicale Parlement Européen – Bruxelles (BE) / Luxembourg (LU); Association du Personnel du Secrétariat du Groupe des états d'Afrique, des Caraïbes et du Pacifique
