



European Central Bank's Trade Union

Frankfurt, 30.03.2015

IPSO requests Eurosystem Governors to ensure sound ECB staffing

IPSO, the sole trade union recognised at the ECB, has sent an open letter (attached in four languages) to the National Central Bank governors of the Eurosystem requesting a rectification of the staffing situation at the ECB. 1,000 permanent full time positions should be established to bring the ECB workforce to sound and orderly contracts.

We firmly believe that the overall level as well as the composition of the ECB workforce is inadequate in the light of the ECB's current tasks. This chronic understaffing causes inherent operational and strategic risks and costs for the ECB, its staff and the Eurosystem.

IPSO sees a severe and structural conflict of interest at the highest level of the Eurosystem as the root cause of the deplorable staffing situation. IPSO encourages the governors to address the situation and to respect the spirit of the commitments taken by the European governments when they decided to create the euro.

IPSO is concerned by the rate of burnout risk which was assessed to affect 31% of staff. Another third was diagnosed as exhausted. A number of employees have reported suicidal thoughts and/or thoughts of hurting themselves.

Currently only one third of staff working for the ECB has a contract of indefinite duration with the ECB. This is an abnormal situation for a central bank which the governors are invited to correct rapidly.

IPSO trusts that a total increase of 1,000 permanent staff at the ECB would already provide a significant relief. In the same vein, cuts in staffing at the NCBs should be reconsidered.

Emmanuel Larue, president of IPSO, said "in the lasting situation of high work pressure and significant new tasks and responsibilities, it is not responsible to rely on precarious work in the centre of the Eurosystem."

If you would like more information, or to schedule an interview, please call:

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IPSO is the only recognised trade union at the ECB. It represents 42% of permanent staff.