



EUIPO/U4U Joint communication

In the framework of the social dialogue between the Office and the trade unions, the Executive Director and top management of the Office met with a delegation from U4U Brussels on Friday 4 March.

The fruitful meeting was the occasion to take stock of the memorandum of understanding signed between U4U and the EUIPO, notably with regards the outcome of the internal competitions and the progression of the staff policy.

The U4U representatives commended the Office on its forward looking policies on career development and congratulated the Office on the unprecedented expansion of the Establishment plan by 247 posts.

The Executive Director shared with the representatives from U4U Brussels that further to the internal competitions, 19 people have now been appointed Officials and 9 contract agents were offered a temporary agent position in the interim period due to Staff Regulations limitations. All 9 Contract agents will gradually be appointed officials over the course of this year and next in the interest of the service. U4U welcomed the news that of the 247 new posts, 67 of them are reserved for the transformation of Contract Agents to Temporary Agent in the course of the next three years and recognised the efforts of the Office to increase career opportunities for this group of staff. They also expressed satisfaction to learn that in the past two years, the number of FG III Contract Agents in the Office has been reduced from 115 to 46, and asked to continue paying attention to this population and follow its evolution closely, including at the next meeting, given their limited career prospects. In particular, it was agreed that career prospects of those contract agents who are unable to benefit from other measures could also be discussed at the next meeting. Finally, the U4U representative requested more information about the second renewal procedure for temporary agents and the interpretation of needs of the service.

The meeting was also the occasion for the ED to inform the U4U representatives of the successful outcome of recent negotiations with EPSO, resulting in the Office being granted quotas from EPSO reserve lists in exchange for a participation in the selections. U4U recognised that this will provide further opportunities for support staff, particularly, to become Officials of the Office. With regards future competitions, the ED confirmed that a new IP competition will be launched and welcomed U4U's intention to offer online training to potential candidates.

The Executive Director and the U4U representatives also had the opportunity to exchange views on the latest developments from the Regulatory Agencies and the EU Commission.

Finally, it was agreed to continue with the excellent collaboration and constructive social dialogue that defines the Office relations with U4U.

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