



Dear Ms. Andersson,

On Tuesday, 27 February 2024, the College of Quaestors, at the unanimous request of the Employment and Social Affairs Committee (EMPL), adopted the decision to withdraw Amazon's lobbying badges following the company's repeated refusal to attend parliamentary hearings and welcome democratic representatives at its warehouses.

We, the undersigned trade unions, have welcomed this important decision from the European Parliament. As we wrote in the [open letter](#) in support of the initiative, published on 12 February, "Amazon's disregard for the EU's democratic institutions should not allow the company to get off the hook." It did not. Instead, the European Parliament made a historic decision in favour of democratic accountability – only the second time in the history of the institution, after Monsanto in 2017, that a corporation's lobby access was removed.

In response to the Parliament's ban, Amazon [stated](#) that they "declined to participate in a session that was clearly one-sided and not designed to encourage constructive debate or objective scrutiny." Curiously, until that point, Amazon had given scheduling reasons for not attending the latest hearing in your Committee in January 2024. Besides, we believe that a hearing to which *both* social partners – employer and trade unions – were invited does not meet the definition of "one-sided".

For all the above reasons, we can't help but draw the conclusion that Amazon is currently uninterested in an open discussion on working conditions at its warehouses. Italian Amazon worker and European Works Council member Gianpaolo Meloni put it like this: "Amazon treats our democratic institutions like it treats us, its workers: with contempt."

Gianpaolo further lauded the Parliament's decision: "Today's decision by the European Parliament shows Amazon that it can't continue disregarding our democratic institutions without consequences. And I hope the same will be true in the future when it comes to our democratic rights: like the right to freely join a union and bargain for better conditions and pay."

Like Gianpaolo, we hope that Amazon will learn its lesson – and start respecting democratic institutions and workers' democratic rights. And we hope that the European Parliament will continue to support Amazon workers and their trade unions in this fight.

You, as coordinators of the EMPL Committee, are tasked with deciding under which conditions Amazon's representatives will be readmitted to the European Parliament. We ask for an open dialogue where we can share our perspectives on the matter.

Amazon should only be allowed to return once they have demonstrated their respect for democracy in the EU and, in particular, by (1) attending a hearing on working conditions in its warehouses in a similar setup as the hearing on 23 January and (2) accepting visits from



the EMPL Committee and workers' representatives to its warehouses, including in Poland and Germany.

We expect that Amazon's record of union-busting and refusal to engage in collective bargaining will also feature in your decision.

Thank you again for your support. We remain at your disposal for any questions.

Best wishes,

Esther Lynch, General Secretary, European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)

Oliver Roethig, Regional Secretary, The European Services Workers Union (UNI Europa)

Jan Willem Goudriaan, General Secretary, European Public Service Union (EPSU)

Kristjan Bragason, General Secretary, European Federation of Food, Agriculture and Tourism Trade Union (EFFAT)

Ricardo Gutierrez, General Secretary, European Federation of Journalists (EFJ)

Nigel Dennis, Head of Office, European Confederation of Police (EuroCOP)

Judith Kirton-Darling, General Secretary, IndustriAll Europe

Livia Spera, General Secretary, European Transport Workers' Federation (ETF)