

**Enrico Lunghi**  
**Luxembourg**  
**e.lunghi@icloud.com**

### **To CIMAM**

Dear Elizabeth Ann Macgregor, President,  
Dear members,  
Dear colleagues,  
Dear friends,

Unfortunately, I am not able to attend the annual congress again this year but because I'm often asked about my situation, I am writing this letter to update interested members and friends about my resignation as general director of Mudam Luxembourg, following on from my last letter to CIMAM on November 6<sup>th</sup> 2016.

Shortly after my resignation become public, a wave of solidarity rose up from the cultural sector in Luxembourg and from other parts of society. Many people were scandalized by the fact that the person in charge of a cultural institution stepped down because of the dubious show "De Nol op de Kapp" broadcast by national RTL-TV on October 3<sup>rd</sup> 2016 in which I was accused of "assault and battery" (*coups et blessures volontaires*). Many were also concerned about the intervention of Mr. Bettel, Prime Minister, Minister of Culture and Minister of Media and Communication, who, the day following the broadcast, announced a disciplinary procedure against me, as well as the attitude of the Mudam Board (whose members had already been given the unedited rushes of the program – see below – at their extraordinary meeting of October 6<sup>th</sup>).

In the days that followed, that support become international, and I would like to take this opportunity to express my deep gratitude to everybody who in a way or another helped me to overcome those difficult times.

The public support was not without effect: very quickly, the outside pressure and the internal tensions at RTL became too much. On November 14<sup>th</sup>, the TV-channel decided to publish the complete unedited interview I had with Mrs. Sophie Schram on September 13<sup>th</sup> (from which the manipulated show of October 3<sup>rd</sup> was drawn).

This caused again an important media reaction: after one month in which I was depicted as an "aggressor", I suddenly became the "victim" of an infamous manipulation.

As a consequence of this, Prime Minister Bettel was asked to explain his intervention to a parliamentary commission on November 15<sup>th</sup> to which he sent his state secretary, Mr. Guy Arendt. He was summoned to appear again on November 28<sup>th</sup>.

In the following weeks, the troubles at RTL lead to the withdrawal of the regular show “De Nol op de Kapp”. In addition, an ethical program committee was created (to avoid such situations in the future) and the director of RTL-Luxembourg, Mr. Alain Berwick, resigned two days before the general board meeting of RTL-Group.

In December 2016, the commissioner of the investigation for the disciplinary procedure concluded in his 77 page report that there is no basis for a disciplinary procedure against me.

During all this period, I continued to work at Mudam in a professional way. Among other things, we did a memorable public lunch to feed Super-Cloaca of Wim Delvoye (December 13<sup>th</sup>) and I presented the future artistic program of the museum to the national and international press. I left at the end of the year satisfied that I was leaving behind an institution in very good shape both in terms of programming and administration, thanks to my dedicated and committed team. I am also very happy to have been able to lead the museum in accordance with the vision of a public service institution that aimed to share beauty, intelligence and social awareness with the public through contemporary artists’ work.

As I announced in my letter to CIMAM last year, I filed a complaint against unknown (*plainte contre X*) to find out who was responsible for the manipulated show in order to sue them for defamation: I am currently waiting for justice to do its work.

I also re-entered the public service and work now at the Ministry of education (S.C.R.I.P.T.) and at the University of Luxembourg (Institut d’Etudes Romanes, Médias et Arts).

This is just a summary report of what happened, but I have to add that on January 12<sup>th</sup> 2017, RTL was accused of manipulation by the ALIA (Autorité luxembourgeoise indépendante de l’audiovisuel) and denounced for contravening its obligations as a public service, an accusation repeated by the Luxembourg Press Council (April 4<sup>th</sup>): this has never happened before in our country. It’s also interesting to note that Mr. Alain Rousseau, chief redactor at RTL, resigned on January 25<sup>th</sup>: he was a clear opponent to the broadcasting of the ignominious show of 3<sup>rd</sup> October.

I have made no public comment on this affair since my resignation. My only intervention was a song called “Monsieur le Ministre” that I published on youtube last January ([youtube.com/watch?v=fhiPt9dDQeg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fhiPt9dDQeg)).

Nevertheless, unexpectedly, in a double-page interview he gave at Luxemburger Wort very recently, the Minister of Culture, when asked about the so-called “Lunghi-affair”, said a.o. that “Lunghi should not have threatened Mrs. Shram”. I responded in a public letter recalling that Mr. Bettel is still not able to admit that he did not respect the principle of the presumption of innocence through his public intervention, violating a fundamental right in our democracy (Luxemburger Wort, September 9<sup>th</sup> 2017).

There is plenty of material about this affair (mostly in French or German) in the Luxembourg media (paper and electronic) and some in the international press. It was commented on how much politics, finance and media tend to merge in today's society and the extent to which art and cultural institutions can become instrumentalized and controlled by powerful external forces. A book on how the media related this "affair" may also be published soon (in French).

I wish you, dear President, dear colleagues and friends, a stimulating, successful and friendly CIMAM-Congress.

I remain close to you in heart and thoughts.

Yours

Enrico Lunghi  
Luxembourg, October 29<sup>th</sup> 2017.

I send a copy of this letter to Julia Draganovic, President of IKT.