

Open letter to Mr Magenmann, Director-General JRC ISPRA

SAFETY AT JRC ISPRA A COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY

A SERIOUS ACCIDENT A CLEAR REMINDER

Brussels, March 16th 2026

Dear Director-General, Dear Mr. Magenmann,

We are writing to you following the serious accident that occurred on Thursday, 12 March, at the JRC site in Ispra, where a worker from a private contractor was severely injured after falling from a scaffold while working in the old cogeneration building.

First and foremost, our thoughts are with the injured worker and his family. We sincerely hope for his full and rapid recovery. We also wish to acknowledge the prompt and highly professional intervention of the JRC Emergency Response Team and the medical service, whose rapid action was crucial in managing the emergency and ensuring that the injured worker received immediate care, mitigating the health consequences.

At the same time, this accident inevitably raises serious concerns regarding occupational safety at the Ispra site.

The JRC Ispra site is a complex environment that includes technical installations, laboratories, industrial infrastructures and ongoing construction and decommissioning activities. Such a context requires constant vigilance and robust safety systems supported by adequate human and financial resources.

Unfortunately, we have observed with growing concern a progressive reduction in the resources allocated to key safety-related services, including safety teams, the medical service and the emergency response team (the internal fire brigade). These services constitute the backbone of prevention and emergency management on site. Any weakening of their operational capacity risks undermining our collective ability to prevent accidents and respond effectively when incidents occur. Downsizing threatens our ability to respond to emergencies.

The recent accident is therefore not only a matter of immediate concern, but also a reminder of the importance of maintaining and strengthening the structures that safeguard the health and safety of everyone working on the site, including staff, contractors and visitors.

In this context, we respectfully call on the JRC management to:

- reaffirm its commitment to the highest standards of occupational health and safety.
- ensure that safety-related services are provided with adequate staffing and financial resources.
- engage in a transparent dialogue with staff representatives on the current and future organisation of emergency and safety services at the Ispra site.
- conduct a thorough review of the conditions under which contractors operate on site, with particular attention to safety procedures and supervision.

Health and safety at work must remain a non-negotiable priority. Prevention, preparedness and rapid response are essential pillars of a safe working environment, especially in a site as complex and technically demanding as JRC Ispra.

We trust that this unfortunate event will serve as an opportunity to strengthen our collective commitment to safety and to ensure that the necessary measures are taken to protect everyone working on site.

We remain available for constructive dialogue and cooperation on this crucial matter.

Respectfully Yours,

Raúl Trujillo

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President

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