

To CIMAM

subject:

**my resignation from Mudam in 2016
following a manipulated TV-show on RTL Télé-Lëtzebuerg**

Dear Mrs. President,
dear Mami,
dear CIMAM members,
dear colleagues and friends,

I hope you are well in these times of uncertainties and collapsing systems.

I herewith present a final update on my situation, following my letters from 6th November 2016 and from 29th October 2017.

Here is a short recap¹:

- on 3rd October 2016, RTL Télé-Lëtzebuerg broadcast a show, “De Nol op de Kapp”, in which I was accused of “hurting” a “journalist”, Mrs. Sophie Schram, during the interview she conducted with me on 13th September. The RTL-lawyer Pol Urbany also announced that Mrs. Schram was taking me to court for “*deliberate assault and battery* (coups et blessures volontaires)”;
- on 4th October, Mr. Xavier Bettel, Prime minister, minister of Culture and minister of Communication and Media, declared publicly he would carry out a disciplinary procedure against me as my attitude was “*unacceptable*” and “*undignified*”;
- on 5th October, I apologized in an open letter to Mrs. Sophie Schram, regretting my “*outburst* (emportement)”; RTL immediately declared that the complaint against me would be withdrawn (actually, as later revealed, no complaint has ever been filed...);
- on 6th October, the Mudam board (which had already received the complete rushes of the interview) held an extraordinary session and published a press release in which it “*deeply regretted my inappropriate attitude* (attitude déplacée) *and disapproved of my outburst*”, but on the basis of my excuses and explanations it would “*renew its confidence*” in me;
- the next day, the ministry of Culture announced that the investigation for the disciplinary procedure against me would not be interrupted (two months later, the report concluded that there was no basis for a disciplinary procedure against me);
- during the following two weeks and for the first time in my professional life, I was on sick leave (suffering from insomnia, vertigo and nausea), and realizing the extent to which my reputation had been damaged as well as the perfidious support of my board, I decided to resign from my position at Mudam and to sue the authors of my defamation;
- shortly after my resignation became public (4th November), a wave of solidarity arose from the cultural sector and from civil sections of society in Luxembourg and internationally, and I want to take this opportunity to once again thank all friends, colleagues, private individuals and complete strangers who sustained me through my ordeal;

¹ For an accurate description (in French) of the whole affair, see [Catherine GAENG : Lynchage médiatique et abus de pouvoir : Chronique de l'affaire Lunghi-RTL-Bettel](#) (digital version only, paper edition sold out)

- on 14th November, as a consequence of the public indignation, RTL published the rushes of the interview which showed that there was no aggression from my side (but more exactly an harassing interview by Mrs. Sophie Schram...), and Prime minister Bettel was summoned to explain his intervention to a parliamentary commission on 28th November;
- in the following weeks, RTL withdrew the regular show “De Nol op de Kapp” and an ethical program committee was created; the director of RTL Télé-Lëtzebuerg, Mr. Alain Berwick, resigned two days before a board meeting of CLT-UFA; and on 12th January 2017, RTL received a public reprimand for manipulation and for contravening its obligations as a public service by the ALIA (Autorité luxembourgeoise indépendante de l’audiovisuel), a reprimand repeated by the Luxembourg Press Council on 4th April 2017. Needless to say that, without my resignation, my public image would have permanently remained tarnished, and that RTL-Télé Lëtzebuerg, which has a public service mission, has never apologized for having misled the public.

As I announced in my letter of 6th November 2016, I filed a complaint against persons unknown (plainte contre X) in December 2016: after almost four years of investigation, encountering all possible delaying tactics by the adverse parties, and after all maneuvers had been dismissed, the judge concluded her report on 20th November 2020.

On 17th March 2021, the council chamber (Chambre du conseil) pronounced its conclusions² but all parties folded an appeal. On 19th October, the court of appeal confirmed the charges of “slander, or defamation, or libel (calomnie, sinon diffamation, sinon injure)” and of “unintentional assault and battery (coups et blessures involontaires)” caused by the broadcast of the manipulated show, for

- Mr. Alain Berwick (director of RTL Télé-Lëtzebuerg)
- Mr. Steve Schmit (director of programs)
- Mr. Marc Thoma (journalist and head of “De Nol op de Kapp”)
- Mrs. Sophie Schram (freelance at RTL Télé-Lëtzebuerg)

They are committed for trial before the magistrate’s/criminal court (chambre correctionnelle).

Concerning myself, since leaving Mudam, I work for the ministry of Education ([SCRIPT](#)) and teach contemporary art at the University of Luxembourg ([IRMA](#)) and as guest professor at Fondazione Modena Arti Visive ([FMAV](#)).

I also curate international projects such as *Bert Theis : Building Philosophy - Cultivating Utopia* (Mudam, 2019), *Un monde, un seul, pour demeure - Collections des fracs Nouvelle Aquitaine* (Château de Biron, Dordogne, 2019), *Filip Markiewicz: Celebration Factory* (Kunsthalle Osnabrück, 2019) and *Ultraplasmik Rhapsody* (MNAC Bucarest, 2020), etc.

Furthermore, I give lectures ([outdoorgallerygdansk](#), [kunstmuseum.li](#), [luxembourgartweek.lu](#), etc.) and write texts on contemporary art and other themes ([Academia](#), [Mediapart](#), Kulturissimo, etc.), as well as novels ([La collectionneuse d'anges](#), [Vrais masques et fausses façades](#), etc.) and songs (published on [youtube](#)).

I remain sincerely yours and wish you all the best,

Enrico Lunghi



² See also [Catherine GAENG : "Donc nous avons menti au public" - Dans la coulisse de l'affaire Lunghi-RTL-Bettel](#)