



President of the AE  
President of the CCE  
President of APEL

11.3.2024

## Position Statement regarding deletion of email on the 4.3.2024

### Context

On the 4.3.2024 the entire EPFL community received an email from an EPFL PhD student complaining about a personal conflict with other individuals at EPFL. In sending this email the student managed to bypass the moderation step which is usually in place when an email is sent to large bodies and or big emailing lists within EPFL, thus violating EPFL-internal regulations for communication. The student ignored a warning issued by human resources, and instead shared that warning with the entire community.

Some hours after the email was sent, it was deleted centrally from the email inboxes of all EPFL employees. This action was later justified by the legal department through the claim that it was violating LEX 6.3.3, and the deletion was in turn justified by article 23 in LEX 6.1.4.

### Position of CCE, AE, and APEL

The representative bodies strongly condemn the action by the EPFL administration, and we view the deletion of this email as a violation of federal laws on the protection of personal data. The spirit of articles 23 and 21 of LEX 6.1.4 does not foresee its application to the current situation, hence this action also stretches the interpretation of EPFL's own LEX.

It is highly concerning that messages of this type are simply removed from our mailboxes. This constitutes a form of censorship that cannot be accepted. Moreover, it underscores broader concerns regarding handling personal data beyond this incident, suggesting a potential lack of appropriate protections.

In light of this, we urge a thorough investigation into the decision-making process and call for a public statement from the responsible parties to clarify the situation and explain the absolute priority they give to protecting employees' data above all other considerations and, more importantly, how to ensure that such intrusion in our personal data will not happen again.

On behalf of AE

Aleksandra Radenovic  
President

On behalf of the CCE

Andreas Osterwalder  
President

On behalf of APEL

Georg Fantner  
President