



Directorate-General for Finance  
Directorate for Budget and Financial Services  
The Director

GEDA D(2504)  
Brussels, 24 January 2024

Subject: Heartfelt Gratitude for Your Support and Guidance

Dear Christina Gippert,

*Dear Christina!*

I am writing to express my deepest gratitude for the invaluable support and guidance you provided to the Directorate for Budget and Financial Services of the European Parliament during the challenging period following the passing of our esteemed colleague, Auke Baas, on January 11, 2024.

Your assistance during the initial phase was nothing short of remarkable. Your pragmatic advice helped me navigate the immediate aftermath of our colleague's death, ensuring that we could manage the situation with sensitivity and efficiency. Your insights on how to handle the middle management and communicate with our concerned colleagues were instrumental in fostering a supportive environment during those difficult times.

In the subsequent phase, your efforts truly stood out. The workshop you organized on January 23, 2024, addressing the "dos" and "don'ts" in handling grief, whether it be the loss of a colleague or supporting a grieving team member, was insightful and greatly appreciated. Your dedication to providing practical guidance for our middle management was evident, and it undoubtedly contributed to the well-being of our team.

Moreover, your assistance in organizing and implementing a ceremony to commemorate Auke Baas was a touching and meaningful gesture. The opportunity for all colleagues to come together and remember our time with Auke has played a crucial role in fostering a peaceful and safe climate within the directorate. Your support has been of immense importance in helping us integrate the loss and build on this challenging experience.

On behalf of the entire directorate, colleagues, and myself, I want to extend my sincere thanks for your exceptional contributions during this difficult time. Your expertise, compassion, and dedication have made a lasting impact, and we are grateful to have had your support.

Wishing you continued success in your endeavours.

With heartfelt thanks,

*Thank you so much!*

Kirsten Lüddecke  
Director, Directorate for Budget and Financial Services  
European Parliament