**Sven Gatz orders inspection following misconduct allegations against Jan Fabre**

**Flemish minister for Culture, Sven Gatz, is taking measures following an open letter signed by various dancers who worked with Jan Fabre. The dancers have outlined allegations of misconduct during their time at Troubleyn, the dancing company of Mr. Fabre. Minister Gatz ordered his administration (CJM) to conduct an inspection, in order to get a clear scope on the situation.**

Sven Gatz: “I am deeply concerned about the content of this letter. Every complaint on misconduct is ought to be taken serious; whether it is about indecency, sexual harassment or assault. Every individual in our culture and media sector, must at all times act in an integral and trusting matter. I am awaiting the results of this investigation ahead of taking further steps. All parties will be heard during the course of the investigation.”

At the end of June of this year, Gatz released the results of a scientific research project (CUDOS) specifically aimed at mapping misconduct in the culture and media sector. The results indicated a strong presence of such behaviour. Half of the women active in the culture and/or media sector have experienced acts of misconduct. One out of four women in the culture sector have experienced sexual harassment. Four percent claimed to have been forced or blackmailed in order to have sexual contact.

Sven Gatz: “It appears that the results of the research project shook things up. In order to properly eradicate these problems, people need to know they can talk about it and that their case will be heard.”

As a result of the research project, Gatz launched an action plan together with both sectors and their respective unions. The plan is targeted at promoting channels through which complaints can be submitted, making them more efficient, and providing rapid help for victims . The 1712 service, through which victims can call in, will be strengthened, an ombudsman/woman and mediator will be installed. Moreover, the plan provides for training of ‘trusted persons’ within organisations and provide information to executives and members of the board. Finally, provisions with regard to misconduct, will be included in management agreements or subsidy conditions.