



10 July 2017

Att: Mr. Olivier Schrameck, President, French Audiovisual Authority ("CSA")

Dear Mr. Schrameck,

We are writing to you to express our deep indignation with regard to the new televised sequence of the game "Fort Boyard", which started broadcasting on June 24. The show contains stigmatizing and insulting slogans, such as: «*Pour ne pas finir au trou, secouez-vous comme un fou.*» and stigmatizing content¹.

We are happy to learn that CSA's responsibilities under the law of 30 September 1986 include "protection of consumers" and "ensuring human dignity is upheld". You should know that according to the WHO, 1 person out of 4 is affected by mental health issues in their lifetime. Around 450 million people currently suffer from such conditions, placing mental health problems among the leading causes of ill-health and disability worldwide². The current population of France is 64,941,852; therefore, over 16 billion French citizens currently have had, have or will develop mental health problems and are going to be negatively affected by the stigma and discrimination provoked by this television show. If we add up their relatives and friends, the number of people affected is even more significant.

Despite the fact that a minority of all people with mental health problems are placed in an institution, the negative image of a mental patient popularized by the show will stick to every person who has been given a mental diagnosis. Many of those with mental health problems will not seek help out of fear that if they do, they will be the ones who are going to be laughed at.

In addition, the experience of our members with isolation and restraint has led to deep pain and trauma despite empirical evidence indicating its lack of effectiveness, as recognized by the United Nations³.

We have also learned that the current approach of "Fort Boyard" is not new. The "Asylum" test existed from 2001 to 2006 and, therefore, there is a need to prevent future cases of repetition, as well as to stop the current version of the show.

We kindly ask you to take into account the interests and the dignity of a significant part of the French audience, directly and indirectly affected by mental health issues, and take all possible measures to stop this television show from running.

We remain available for any questions or remarks you may have.

Yours sincerely, on behalf of the ENUSP Board,

Olga Kalina

Chair

cc.: Mrs. Delphine Ernotte Cunci, France Télévision; Relations téléspectateurs France Télévision, France 2;
Mr. Gora Patel, Médiateur des programmes France Télévision; Mr. Guillaume Romain, producteur artistique

¹ <http://www.santementale.fr/actualites/fort-boyard-stigmatise-l-asile-luttons-contre-la-psychophobie.html>

² http://www.who.int/whr/2001/media_centre/press_release/fr/

³ <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRPD/Pages/GC.aspx>