# Uncertainty looms over federal employees as Musk issues ultimatum



As the new workweek commenced on Monday, a significant level of uncertainty enveloped hundreds of thousands of federal employees in the United States, precipitated by a directive from Elon Musk, the chief of the Department of Government Efficiency, as appointed by President Donald Trump. Musk’s edict required employees to submit detailed accounts of five accomplishments from the preceding week by a deadline of 11:59 p.m. EST, or risk termination.

The unusual and abrupt demand has elicited considerable backlash from several prominent U.S. agencies, particularly those closely aligned with Trump. Key agencies such as the FBI, State Department, Homeland Security, and the Pentagon instructed their personnel to ignore Musk’s ultimatum over the weekend. Concerns have been raised by lawmakers across the political spectrum who argue that Musk's requirements may violate legal norms. In response to the pressures brought by this mandate, various unions have signalled their intent to pursue legal action.

Adding to the tumultuous atmosphere, an amended lawsuit was filed in federal court in California, claiming that Musk’s threats constituted one of the “most massive employment frauds in the history of this country.” The suit impugns the legality of the expenditure-focused approach that Musk and the Trump administration are undertaking, which has involved a series of mass firings and subsequent rehiring efforts.

In a parallel development on the same day, the United Nations General Assembly rejected a resolution proposed by the U.S. designed to end the war in Ukraine without acknowledging Russian aggression. The assembly subsequently modified the resolution to explicitly mention Russia’s invasion, with a voting outcome of 93 in favour, eight against, and 73 abstentions.

On the diplomatic front, President Trump held discussions with French President Emmanuel Macron, coinciding with the third anniversary of the Ukraine conflict. Trump articulated the intention of establishing a critical minerals and rare earths deal with Ukraine, which he believes will facilitate long-term economic collaboration and stability for the war-torn nation.

In another notable event, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) reversed course on recently executed mass firings, informing some affected employees that their terminations had been rescinded just days after they were originally dismissed. This erratic approach to staffing has been highlighted as a hallmark of the current administration as it navigates cost-cutting measures across various departments.

Furthermore, Massachusetts cities Chelsea and Somerville initiated lawsuits against Trump for allegedly threatening to withhold federal funds due to their sanctuary policies regarding immigration enforcement. Their legal argument hinges on the contention that using federal funding as leverage infringes upon their constitutional rights.

In additional developments, Trump appointed Dan Bongino, a former Secret Service agent with a prominent career in conservative media, as the new Deputy Director of the FBI. This personnel shift has raised eyebrows among critics who express concern over the potential politicisation of the agency under the current administration.

Overall, the confluence of these events illustrates the instability and contention consuming various facets of the Trump administration’s governance approach, as they grapple with cost-cutting priorities, foreign relations, and domestic policies amidst a complex political landscape.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/trump-elon-musk-vivek-ramaswamy-new-department-of-government-efficiency/> - This article supports the claim that Elon Musk was appointed by President Donald Trump to head the Department of Government Efficiency, alongside Vivek Ramaswamy. It also discusses the role of this new agency in reducing government bureaucracy and waste.
* <https://www.whitehouse.senate.gov/news/release/whitehouse-questions-musk-hiring-in-new-letter-to-trump-white-house/> - This letter from Senator Sheldon Whitehouse questions the legality of Elon Musk's appointment and the extent of his authority within the Department of Government Efficiency. It highlights concerns about compliance with federal ethics rules and the need for Senate confirmation.
* <https://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/80/1> - This URL would typically provide information on United Nations resolutions, which could support the claim about the UN General Assembly's actions regarding the Ukraine conflict. However, specific details about the resolution mentioned in the article may not be available here.
* <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements> - This FDA news page could provide updates on recent personnel changes or reversals in staffing decisions, supporting the claim about the FDA rescinding terminations.
* <https://www.mass.gov/news> - This Massachusetts government news page might include information on lawsuits filed by cities like Chelsea and Somerville against the federal government, supporting the claim about sanctuary policies.