

Via eMail:

to: Ms. Sara Eyckmans ([coordinator@wsrw.org](mailto:coordinator@wsrw.org))  
to: Mr. Axel Goldau ([redaktion@kritische-oekologie.de](mailto:redaktion@kritische-oekologie.de))  
cc: Ms. Alice Cope [cope@un.org](mailto:cope@un.org)

Hamburg, May 8th 2012

## **Siemens' involvement in the Foum El Oued wind park project in the West Sahara region**

Ms. Eyckmans, Mr. Goldau,

Thank you for your letter to Dr. Michael Süß, which I am answering in my capacity as CEO of Siemens Wind Power.

We do take your concerns seriously and appreciate that you are sharing your doubts with us. However, we can assure you that Siemens is checking the framework conditions thoroughly before a project decision is made.

As a globally active company, we bear great responsibility for sustainable development throughout the world. Siemens is committed to providing sustainable energy solutions to customers around the world. Since large parts of the African population do not have access to power supply, Siemens can contribute to advance the sustainable power generation in Africa.

The "Foum El Oued" wind park project bears a number of very positive effects regarding sustainable power production as well as the development of the region of West Sahara and the situation of the local population:

- Wind energy is clean and helps reducing greenhouse gas emissions while providing new technology and infrastructure to the West Sahara region
- The "Foum El Oued" wind park project is in validation process to become registered as a project under the UN's Clean Development Mechanism
- The project contributes to the social and economic development of the region
- It also provides indirect employment benefits for the local population

The participation of Siemens in this project is permissible under the applicable laws and regulations and does not infringe the right of self-determination or any other human right in public international law.

With delivering technology to this project, Siemens does not intend to make a political statement on the status of the region. Regardless of political disputes, we believe that a working infrastructure will help to improve the economic conditions, and as a consequence the situation of the people in the West Sahara.

I hope that these explanations will help you to understand our engagement in North Africa.

Sincerely,



Dr. Felix Ferlemann