

Ms. Eyckmans  
Coordinator  
Western Sahara Resource Watch  
coordinator@wsrw.org

Zamudio 16<sup>th</sup> November 2018

Dear Ms. Eyckmans,

— Thank you for your letter of October 1<sup>st</sup> with regard to “Siemens Energy’s service contract for the Fom El Oued wind power plant in occupied Western Sahara”.

First of all, let me make you aware that in April 2017 the former Siemens Wind Power Division and Spanish Gamesa Corporación Tecnológica have merged into a new company: Siemens Gamesa Renewable Energy. The company is headquartered in Spain and listed on the Spanish stock exchange. While Siemens AG owns a 59% of the merged company, Siemens AG and Siemens Gamesa Renewable Energy are two independent companies.

Providing service to maintain the efficient operation of existing turbines worldwide is an essential part of the work we do for our clients. In this framework, Siemens Gamesa Renewable Energy (SGRE) has prolonged the service contracts for both, the Haouma as well as the Fom el Oued projects for the duration of 15 years. The service contract comprises ensuring the availability of electricity production of the windfarm and the maintenance of electrical equipment and components.

We still believe that an improvement of energy infrastructure, especially based on renewable energies, will bring real value to communities and people. In our projects we follow a "hire-locals-first"-policy; under these terms we and our suppliers employ –wherever qualifications allow it – local workforce. In fact, jobs have resulted for people that are originally from the region. Besides, Siemens Gamesa is currently investing in targeted community projects, such as local health, clean drinking water, access to energy as well as educational and environmental projects. Those projects are defined via a participatory approach of the local population.

We want to bring positive change to the communities in the regions where our company is active. We have also stated to you in the past that Siemens Gamesa does not take a stance or make judgments on issues of international public law. We are aware that the region of Western Sahara is disputed with the United Nations considering the zone as a “non-self-governing territory” since 1963. We support the position of the international community and the UN, which have expressed hope for a peaceful resolution to outstanding issues.

With best regards



Dr. Markus Tacke  
Chief Executive Officer  
Siemens Gamesa Renewable Energy