



FRENTE POLISARIO

Representation for Europe and the European Union

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Brussels, March 30, 2020

Mr. Hannes Friederichsen

Head of Business Unit Conveying Solutions Continental

Business Area ContiTech

Breslauer Straße 14, 37154 Northeim

Dear Mr Friederichsen,

It is my honour to write to you as the representative of the POLISARIO Front for Europe and the European Union.

According to concurrent information, your company intends to renew a contract with the OCP Group, formerly Office chérifien des phosphates. I am, of course, in no position to comment on your activities on Moroccan territory. However, the situation differs when it comes to the territory of Western Sahara.

Your company, being based in Europe, is entirely subject to European law and if it goes against this law, it positions itself in illegal dealings for which it will be held accountable.

However, a corporation of your importance cannot ignore that Western Sahara, according to fundamental principles of international law, does not fall under Moroccan sovereignty, given that Morocco has been imposing its occupation by military force since 1975. There is a border between the two territories, and you have no right to cross it without our authorisation.

On an operational level, you are required to respect the principles laid down by the Court of Justice of the European Union in its judgment of December 21, 2016, in particular that Morocco and Western Sahara are two distinct and separate territories; that Morocco has no sovereignty over the territory, but is only an occupying power according to the Fourth Geneva Convention. As a result, all activities within this territory require the consent of its only representative, the POLISARIO Front, as recognised by the United Nations.

The alleged Moroccan administration of the territory, with whom you are in contact, has no right whatsoever to issue authorisations regarding the mining of phosphate, as the Fourth Geneva Convention does not permit occupying powers to exploit resources of an occupied territory.

By carrying out your activities in Western Sahara, you intervene in a territory that is ours, and as such you are participating in the plunder of our resources for which your corporation and its leadership can be held accountable under civil and criminal law.

If you intend to carry out an activity on the territory, POLISARIO Front is the sole interlocutor, since it has the mandate of representation according to international law.

Therefore, I urge you to give up your project, or to get in contact with us for negotiations, and, if you wish, through our lawyers.

I solemnly draw your attention to the fact that we will do everything in our power to fulfil the mandate given to us by our people; namely to hold accountable those who steal our resources and who maintain an economy of colonisation that violates fundamental rights and ruins the livelihoods of families.

I take this opportunity to assure you our highest considerations.

Oubi Bouchraya Bachir

Member of the political leadership of the POLISARIO Front

Delegate for Europe and the European Union