

President and CEO of Fugro NV, Mr. Klaas Wester CFO of Fugro NV, Mr. André Jonkman

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 20. mars 2010

Regarding Fugro NV 's operations in Western Sahara

Dear Sirs,

We see in a letter from Fugro-Geoteam AS dated 12 February 2010 to the Norwegian Contact Point for OECD the following statement:

"Fugro-Geoteam AS *does not expect* to be involved in other projects in the foreseeable future in the Western Sahara area. It has also become clear to us that there are strong conceptions, particularly in Norway, in regard to Western Sahara. Given this situation, *we will carefully review the prevailing opinions* in regard to Western Sahara *on any future contract proposal*. We hope that the disputes over the area will be solved." (our emphasis).

We find this statement highly vague and problematic, being of the exact same nature as what we have heard from your firm before. We are thus highly concerned that Fugro NV's subsidiaries indeed will sign more agreements covering the territory of Western Sahara.

We would like to point to the discussion we had at your office in 30 July 2004 with then CEO and President, Gert-Jan Kramer, and CFO André Jonkman.

We were told that none of your subsidiaries would engage in any work in Western Sahara in the future without first hearing with the mother firm. In addition, we were told that no further contracts would be considered in Western Sahara without first carrying out a thorough ethical and legal analysis. Your statement clearly indicated that Fugro NV was not going to carry out operations again in Western Sahara.

In a letter to our Dutch sister organisation on 6 June 2006, you stated that Fugro NV "does not intend to do [activities in Western Sahara] for the moment".

We were therefore very disappointed to learn about Fugro-Geoteam's contract last year, and by the lack of ethical and legal awareness that was revealed when Fugro NV was confronted with the issue by international media.

Most of all, however, we regret to read in Fugro-Geoteam's most recent letter 12 February 2010, that it is still not possible to exclude that your subsidiaries will undertake similar operations in Western Sahara the future. 12 February 2010 was the third time that your firm states that you have no plans, expectations or intentions of carrying out operations in Western Sahara , but yet your subsidiaries keep returning to the territory.

On this basis, we look forward to a reply from you to the following question:

Can Fugro NV confirm to us, unconditionally, that it is *never going to undertake* more operations in Western Sahara until the conflict is solved?

We would also like to point to the fact that our partner in Belgium, the international coordinator of Western Sahara Resource Watch, has still not got an answer to her question to the email sent to you on 10 February 2010, in which she requests an overview of the assignments your subsidiaries have undertaken in the territory.

For further background to the ethical, legal and political dilemmas of the repeated engagement in the territory, we refer to our letter to Fugro-Geoteam on 12 January 2009, to the letter from the Sahrawi Arabic Democratic Republic to Fugro-Geoteam on 13 January 2009, and to the letter to Fugro-Geoteam from students in Norway on 20 January 2009, none of which have been responded to.

Sincerely yours,

/sign./

Andrea Gustavsson
Board member, Norwegian Support Committee
for Western Sahara