Western Sahara Resource Watch

To the kind attention of:
- Ms Sara Eyckmans - Coordinator
  WSRW
- M. Davide Contini - Coordinator
  WSRW – Italy

Dear Ms Eyckmans and M. Contini,

With reference to your letter of 2 June 2020 by which you requested information in relation to our activities in Western Sahara, we would like to provide you with answers to your questions and an update of the Boujdour wind project.

We regret that you feel that some of your previous questions were not properly addressed by Enel Green Power but as we have told you in our previous correspondence we are not able to provide answers directly related to any local and/or international political situation, since it is and remains Enel Group’s policy not to take any position on political matters. We remain always available to meet you in person to provide any additional clarifications on our wind projects.

In relation to your questions concerning renewable projects in the country, we can confirm that the capacity of the Boujdour project has been increased from 100MW to 300MW and that, as a consequence of this, the capacity of the Tiskrad wind project will most likely decrease from 300 MW to 100 MW in order to comply with the overall cumulative capacity provided for in the 850MW Wind Energy Programme (Projet Eolien Intégré or PEI).

Please note that the Aftissat II project is not part of the abovementioned PEI with no involvement from Enel Green Power nor any correlation with the Boujdour wind farm.

The Noor PV II programme has only been recently published by which we will be able to provide you with more feedback on our intentions on this process at a later stage.

As we have already informed you in our previous letter of 2016 and in Enel Sustainability Reports, in preparation of the PEI tender a qualified advisor was engaged to perform a Socio-Economic and Environmental Context Analysis (SEECA) on the geographical locations where the wind projects were to be built.

We are currently working on an updated SEECA for the Boujdour project. This SEECA is performed by an independent international global organization which shall identify and involves the relevant stakeholders and the people of Western Sahara in line with international standards. This process leads to the definition of specific interventions, in line with results of the engagement process, that will be included in the Sustainability Plan for the Boujdour project aimed at creating benefits for local communities, on the
basis of their needs, such as employment, health services, education/training, as well as on the environmental side and in its own way contribute to the global reduction of carbon emissions. In that context, a sustainable construction site model, consisting of proven sustainable practices and solutions, will be implemented in order to maximize further social and economic benefits for the local communities with due respect of the local environment.

We shall give evidence of the Sustainability Plan for the Boujdour Project in Enel Sustainability Report.

We also like to recall that the Boujdour project is a wind farm with no exploitation nor depletion of any non-renewable resources in that territory and that the project will create benefits and advance, through the life of the project, the socio-economic development of the territory as well as its environment.

As sustainable investor, we typically identify the project with its location as a genuine attempt to allow the local population to identify themselves with our projects and recognize its benefit to and interest for the socio-economic and environmental context. This is independent from the political situation that may affect the location.

Concerning the legal framework in place, Enel Green Power is always committed to comply with all applicable laws. Besides, we also like to recall that foreign investments in the renewable sector can, under international law, be legally implemented in Western Sahara and we are not aware of any international sanction regime that would impede such investments in Western Sahara.

Please also note that the decision of the Court of Justice of the EU relates to association agreements between Morocco and the EU relating to different activities than the renewable energy sector. In addition such decisions relate to the law of Treaties applicable to States only.

We also want to stress again that the Boujdour wind project will benefit the people of Western Sahara and will contribute to the socio-economic development of this territory. Therefore, be assured that we keep an open dialogue, focused on the engagement with all relevant stakeholders, in relation to our investment in Western Sahara and, if you wish so, we are available to set up a dedicated meeting on this topic.

Yours sincerely,

Antonio Cammisecra