



CLARIFICATION ON THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY SOME MEDIA BASED ON A PRESS RELEASE ISSUED BY THE CIVIL GUARD

Bilbao, 6 March 2018.- In view of the information provided by some media based on a press release issued by the Civil Guard with regard to the investigation opened by the Nature Protection Service of the Civil Guard (SEPRONA) at our plant in Erandio, describing a situation which is completely out of touch with the real facts, we would like to state the following:

1.- The investigation which is being carried out has its origin in an anonymous complaint. In no way is it based on an action *sua sponte* by the Civil Guard or on situations which may have shown evidence of any damage to the environment or to people's health deriving from the activity of the plant.

2.- We have been collaborating closely in this investigation process, which is still ongoing, since February 2017, when we became aware of the investigation.

3.- The investigation process is currently at the preliminary proceedings stage and therefore, no illegal practices or crimes against the environment or people can be said to have been carried out at any time. In this context, some of the concepts used, such as "dismantling the plot", or accusatory statements such as "people brought to justice for committing crimes ..." are completely false.

4.- It is important to reject outright that 10 people, members of the technical and management team of the company, have been "brought to justice" and much less arrested. They have only been summoned by the Civil Guard to be taken a statement within the aforementioned investigation.

5.- With regard to the import of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE), we must state that no cathode ray tube television has ever been imported.

6.- The activity we carry out deals with processing electrical and electronic waste in order to be decontaminated and to recover materials intended to be used in the productive cycle. All the management criteria as well as the technologies used for this purpose are the appropriate ones and respond to the best techniques currently available in the sector to treat the waste we receive. Our activity has never been involved in any disciplinary action by any competent authority. It has always abided by the parameters of compliance with the law and particularly with security as well as protection of the environment and people's health as required in our sector, and regularly reporting to the Administration the information which guarantees the correct performance of the activity within our authorizations.

7.- Protecting both the environment and, especially, workers' health is our priority. Therefore, we regularly measure the impact of our activity on both aspects with satisfactory results in all cases.

8.- Our activity is carried out under strict control by the appropriate authorities on industrial and environmental matters. In this framework we hold the Integrated Environmental Authorization (AAI) granted by the Basque Government and which has recently been renewed (December 2017). The AAI is a resolution of the appropriate body of the Autonomous Community where the facilities are situated so as to protect the environment as a whole, applying prevention and environmental control principles in an integrated manner.

9.- Finally, in view of the information which has been published, the company will request judicial protection and will consider the adoption of any measures which may be deemed appropriate to guarantee their right to defence.