

Dear Mrs Salma Huerbi and Mr Marti Flacks,

First, on behalf both of Sotacib Kairouan and myself, I would like to thank you for the work of Open Global Rights. By contacting us you have given me the chance to find out about your work and to read some of your interesting reports. At present, when it is often hard to tell between what is true and fake, your verification work is both praiseworthy and essential and I therefore thank you profusely for it and, in particular, for the opportunity it affords Sotacib Kairouan to explain the situation.

Sotacib Kairouan was established in 2008, when all required licenses necessary to operate were available to produce grey cement at the plant. The company's policy has always been to observe local safety and environmental requirements.

It is therefore a fact that petroleum coke, the most commonly used fuel in cement works internationally, is used at Kairouan. The use of petroleum coke is a widespread practice in Tunisia for which Sotacib Kairouan has the required legal authorisation from the Tunisian National Environmental Protection Agency and complies strictly with established international standards. The company also constantly monitors emissions and focuses its efforts on progressively reducing its environmental footprint.

The company has always strictly observed legislation in all areas. This, of course, includes matters related to safety regulations on the use of explosives, an activity for which it has all national licenses and complies thoroughly with international standards. Sotacib Kairouan has striven to improve the welfare and the quality of life of the people in the vicinity of the facilities and has been and will remain open to participating in all kinds of initiatives that contribute to the community's development. Some examples of cohesion are the periodically organised assemblies attended by all employees of the factories at all levels to notify them of the achievements. These meetings enable us to strengthen ties and to convey the importance of continued improvement regarding hazards, health and safety. At Sotacib Kairouan we also dedicate a special attention to our employees and their families through the organization of special events, like Family day, Children's day, etc...

Also we have been involved with local community actions. Some examples of involvement are the delivery of school stationary to the students of Rouissat School and the donation of feast sheep's to families who are in need. At Sotacib Kairouan we also presented the environmental protection measures implemented at the plant, with the participation of primary school students from Kairouan and the Director General of the National Environmental Protection Agency. The doors of the Kairouan factory have also sometimes been opened to young people involved in the world Scout movement so that they may discover their skills, understand their

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responsibilities, and learn about the factory, and to enable the plant to continue its process of integration in Tunisian society and in the local surroundings.

Sotacib Kairouan is fully committed to the environment and contributes decisively to boosting the local economy through 175 direct jobs and over 500 indirect jobs generated by Sotacib Kairouan factory. Nonetheless, given Sotacib Kairouan strong commitment to the environment and surroundings, we believe that there is room for improvement which is currently in progress to implement a social plan for the benefit of all.

We remain at your disposal for any additional enquiries you may have. Thank you very much for your interest.

Tarek Elba

GENERAL MANAGER
SOTACIB Kairouan

