



Aubervilliers, 24 avril 2025

**The Chairman**

Monsieur Nicolas Gottry, Président  
Initiative pour un actionnariat citoyen  
96-98, rue Villiers de L'Isle-Adam  
75020 Paris

**Subject: Written question for the 2025 - Annual General Meeting**

Mr. Chairman,

I have taken note of your letter of April 17, 2025, regarding the allegations of deliberate discharges by Veolia of untreated leachate into the waterways of the San Silvestre wetland in Colombia.

Veolia Aseo Santander Y Cesar, a subsidiary of Veolia, acquired the San Silvestre landfill (formerly Yerbabuena) in Barrancabermeja, Colombia, in August 2019. The site, located near a region with significant industrial activity, particularly petrochemical, had been the subject of controversy under the previous manager, local operator Rediba. Since the acquisition, Veolia has carried out significant improvement work and an upgrade of operational practices.

The accusations you are questioning us about have been mainly brought against Veolia for several months by the NGO "Corporación San Silvestre Green" and another NGO, "Global Witness". The latter, supported by Open Society Foundations, is campaigning against the loosening of duty of care regulations by the European Union. The NGO has presented videos that allegedly show unauthorized practices on the site, as well as analyses that allegedly indicate mercury contamination downstream from the landfill.

Veolia vigorously rejects these accusations and has responded to requests from NGOs and media, providing, in full transparency, all the technical and scientific elements in its possession proving the absence of any link between this alleged contamination and the San Silvestre site.

First of all, we have no information that allows us to verify the authenticity of these videos. Despite our repeated requests, neither the date, nor the author, nor the context of these videos have been disclosed to us. Veolia is also unable to identify the person appearing in this video. In any case, Veolia confirms that the discharge of untreated leachate into the waterways of the San Silvestre wetland is strictly prohibited and no instruction has been given in this regard. In accordance with the license it holds, Veolia Aseo Santander Y Cesar is only authorized to reuse the leachate after treatment using the reverse osmosis process at the San Silvestre site, without any discharge outside. Veolia Aseo Santander Y Cesar suspects deliberate manipulation of the equipment aimed at damaging its reputation and a possible act of sabotage, and has filed a criminal complaint with the Prosecutor of the Nation, the competent local judicial authority.

Secondly, regarding the contamination allegations, it should be noted that the site handles ordinary household waste, excluding any hazardous waste. Furthermore, throughout the year, inspections are conducted and regular analyses are carried out by independent laboratories accredited by IDEAM (Colombian Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies); these have not revealed any significant presence of heavy metals. Recently, following a visit by the CAS (Regional

Autonomous Corporation of Santander, environmental administrative authority) in early March 2025, analyses were conducted again; the preliminary conclusions confirm the absence of heavy metals in the sediment samples.

Lastly, Veolia has systematically responded to all requests from NGOs and media regarding the management of the site with complete transparency. We have invited Global Witness to visit the site on numerous occasions. To date, they have not accepted. Public and regulatory authorities, NGOs such as San Silvestre Green, and media such as The Guardian have visited the site.

The allegations of Global Witness do not reflect the reality of the site or its relationship with the local community. The teams at San Silvestre have established good relations with the neighborhood of Patio Bonito. Veolia offers direct employment opportunities to more than 250 families. The communities served by our operation benefit from water supply systems, environmental education activities, public health programs, cleaning and beautification of common spaces, and the creation of recreational and leisure spaces, etc.

Veolia communicates with all stakeholders, NGOs, and media on this subject in a transparent and sincere manner, ever since we were approached by Global Witness in 2023.

Hoping that these responses will satisfy you, please accept, Mr. President, the expression of my distinguished greetings.

Antoine Frérot