



Position statement

13 August 2024

Position statement following unsubstantiated, contested and firmly condemned allegations attributable to Thomas Dietrich on social media:

- **Since May 2024, the French journalist Thomas Dietrich has been publishing unsubstantiated, false and detrimental content regarding The Addax and Oryx Group PLC and Jean Claude Gandur**
- **His allegations, contrary to journalistic ethics and standards, lack supporting evidence and do not allow for any right of reply since they are not disseminated through press outlets**
- **The Addax and Oryx Group PLC and Jean Claude Gandur regret Thomas Dietrich's lack of professional ethics, which undermines his profession and demonstrate a purely militant approach.**

St. Julians, Malta. The Addax and Oryx Group Plc (AOG) and Jean Claude Gandur hereby react to the unsubstantiated accusations made against them which have been recently published on X (formerly Twitter) by the French journalist Thomas Dietrich about the museum project aiming to host and exhibit the works of art collected by Jean Claude Gandur.

Referring to the accusations of the Swiss NGO Public Eye, it is firstly alleged that AOG sold toxic fuel in Africa. This accusation is groundless. Indeed, as detailed by Oryx Energies SA (Oryx), an affiliate of AOG, in a reactive statement dated October 26, 2016 responding to Public Eye's report, the fuels that Oryx is supplying always comply, in every aspect, to the applicable contractual and legal requirements, it being specified that such legal requirements may strongly differ from one country to another.

It is then alleged that AOG would have been caught in corruption scandals in Nigeria. We strongly deny this allegation as no company being part of the group nor any director and/or officer of AOG has ever been a party to any criminal proceedings, let alone condemned, by any judiciary authority anywhere in the world. Indeed, the case referred to dates back to the 90's and was attributable to former employees having acted in isolation and without any knowledge of AOG's directors and/ or officers, as reported by the Swiss press at the time.

Regarding the relationship existing between Mr. Gandur and the Republic of Congo, he was indeed honorary consul of this State prior to the existence of any official delegation of this country to the United Nations. This diplomatic relationship started at the initiative of Mr. Gandur who realized that the country was not represented internationally in Geneva, at a time when AOG did not have any significant activities in the Republic of Congo. Mr. Gandur's diplomatic functions ended under the presidency of Sassou Nguesso when the country finally put in place an official delegation. In light of the above, it is biased to allege that Mr. Gandur served the interests of Mr. Sassou Nguesso since he only served the legitimate interests of the country that the latter was governing. It should also be noted that Mr. Gandur's mandate as honorary consul was renewed, on two successive occasions, under the interim presidency of André Milongo, as well as under the presidency of Pascal Lissouba. It goes without saying that these two heads of state would not have renewed this diplomatic relationship had Mr. Gandur been President Sassou Nguesso's liegeman.

It is also alleged that Mr. Gandur is collecting so called "gagging-proceedings" against journalists. Again, this presentation of facts does not reflect the reality: the only legal action against the press that Mr. Gandur launched was successfully conducted against a newspaper called "Le Courier" up to the Swiss Federal Tribunal. This case cannot be referred to as a gagging-proceeding, which are by nature inherently abusive, as the Swiss Federal Tribunal,



being the highest Swiss jurisdiction, judged that the newspaper had unduly violated Mr. Gandur', AOG' and the Fondation Gandur pour l'Art's honor.

Finally, it is alleged, in an unsubstantiated and harmful manner, that "art is an excellent way to launder money", reference being then made to the announcement regarding the selection of the City of Caen to host the future museum which shall feature the works of art collected by Mr. Gandur.

AOG and Mr. Gandur deeply regret these unsubstantiated attacks, which, by their nature, could be qualified as defamatory, and will take all necessary judicial measures to protect their reputation, in any relevant jurisdiction.

For more information on AOG: www.aoginvest.com

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