

Geneva, 22 May 2024

Mr Regis Blugeon
Director of Social Affairs and HRD
Group Saint-Gobain
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Calling on Saint-Gobain to uphold its social responsibility and sustainability commitments at its subsidiary Saint-Gobain SEKURIT plant in Avilés, Spain

Dear Mr. Blugeon,

I am writing to you as the General Secretary of [IndustriALL Global Union](https://www.industrial-all.org/), which has 550 affiliates in 130 countries, including France and Spain, representing over 50 million workers in the mining, energy, and manufacturing sectors to call on Saint-Gobain to act responsibly at its subsidiary Saint-Gobain SEKURIT plant in Avilés, Asturias, Spain.

We strongly urge Saint-Gobain to desist from its decision to close the plant in Avilés and instead engage in serious negotiations with our affiliates CC.OO de Industria and UGT, as well as the Corriente Sindical de Izquierdas (CSI), and give due consideration to the trade unions' proposals for continuity of the operation, even for an alternative activity that would preserve part of the employment in the area.

We regret that in the last two years Saint-Gobain has not made investments at its plant in Avilés, creating thus a situation in which there has not been enough orders to achieve the required profitability at Saint-Gobain SEKURIT. We find it unacceptable that Saint-Gobain is now pushing for the closure of the activity, the destruction of employment, without presenting any alternatives.

According to our affiliates, the transfer of the factory activities to Morocco is solely motivated by lower wages there, and other factors are not considered such as the social impact of the removal of 160 direct jobs and other 100 indirect ones, and the sustainability of operations from the point of the carbon footprint.

It is also important to mention that Minister of Employment Yolanda Díaz stated that the reasons for transfer put forward by Saint-Gobain are not sufficient, that the measure proposed by the company set a very bad example for the whole of Spain, that the industry cannot be relocated to countries with lower wage costs with the sole aim of increasing business profitability. Besides, the company in the past received public aid which clearly indicates that Saint-Gobain has a social and sustainability responsibility to pursue its business operations in the country without causing any harm to its workforce and the community in which it operates.

IndustriALL stands in solidarity with the workers of Avilés. We support their efforts to preserve their jobs and urge Saint-Gobain to reconsider its decision for the sake of the community and its dedicated workforce.

It is imperative that Saint-Gobain uphold its social responsibility and sustainability commitments.

I expect your prompt action and reply.

Yours sincerely,



Atle Høie, General Secretary