

The OECD National Contact Points (NCPs) in Norway and Sweden congratulate Jijnjevaerie Saami village and Statkraft/SSVAB on reaching an agreement – responsible business conduct in indigenous peoples' areas is important

Norway and Sweden's NCPs are pleased to see that Statkraft/SSVAB and Jijnjevaerie Saami village have reached an agreement on compensation for the impact and negative effects of the windmills that Statkraft/SSVAB have built in reindeer herding areas of Jijnjevaerie Saami village.

Brief description of the case:

In February 2016, the NCPs' concluded their handling of the complaint from Jijnjevaerie Saami village. In its complaint, the Saami village claimed that the Statkraft/SSVAB wind power project in Jämtland, Sweden, would limit the Saami village's possibility of continuing to pursue sustainable reindeer herding. The Saami village requested that the NCPs facilitate meaningful dialogue with Statkraft/SSVAB. This was done, but unfortunately the mediation was concluded without result. In its final statement, the NCPs recommended that the parties show renewed will to negotiate an agreement on the further development of the wind power projects.

'We are pleased to see that Statkraft/SSVAB and Jijnjevaeri Saami village have now managed to reach an agreement in this case on their own,' say Ola Mestad and Kristin Pålsson, head of the Norwegian and the Swedish NCP, respectively.

The content of the agreement regulates the impact of and the preventive measures in the wind power projects, in order to reduce the negative effects on the Jijnjevaerie Saami village and reindeer herding.

Main conclusion:

The NCPs of Norway and Sweden wish the parties the best of luck in their future cooperation in the area. The parties have many years of co-existence ahead of them. It is important that this is done in a responsible manner that ensures that the wind parks have a limited impact on the Saami's right to continue their traditional reindeer herding.

The OECD guidelines for responsible business

The NCPs refer to the recently published 'OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Meaningful Stakeholder Engagement in the Extractive Sector'. The Guidance is a tool to identify and manage risks in relation to stakeholder engagement, to ensure that businesses prevent and remedy negative impacts, in line with the expectations in the OECD Guidelines. Consultations are important for responsible businesses in all sectors. The agreement between Statkraft and Jijnjevaerie Saami village is an example of how important consultations are for responsible business conduct in indigenous peoples' areas, in line with the OECD Guidelines.

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