

DR. CAROLINE LUCAS

Green Party
for the South East of England

Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner
DG External Affairs
The European Commission
200 Rue de la Loi
B1049 Brussels
Belgium.

June 27th 2006

Dear Commissioner,

You may well be aware of the world-wide campaign to protect the environment and people of Pascua Lama in Chile from a damaging mining project. I am writing to request that my opposition to this mine, and that of my constituents, be raised with the Chilean government at the earliest possible opportunity.

Barrick Gold are planning to develop a mine that will extract gold, silver and other minerals from the Valle de San Felix, home to two unspoiled glaciers that supply water to the area, particularly for farming. The mine will make use of chemicals, including cyanide and sulphuric acid, which will contaminate the water supply and threaten the livelihoods of local people, the environment and the health of the region. Barrick Gold will profit from this mine but leave the people of Valle de San Felix paying for the damage it causes in the long term. Local people are fighting the development because of the impact it will have on their lives and because they recognize that the fragile glaciers are a global resource that must be protected.

This kind of unsustainable development should be vigorously opposed. I trust that the Commissioner will put pressure on the Chilean authorities, asking them to revisit the decision to allow this kind of mining to take place in Pascua Lama. I look forward to hearing how this has been taken forward.

Yours sincerely,



Caroline Lucas - Green Party MEP for South East England.