

Press release - 11/06/2018

Group of global CSOs send clear message to those authorities investigating Airbus for alleged corruption: Don't cut a cosy deal that allows the company or individuals off the hook

Today CSOs in the US, France and UK, where Airbus is under investigation as well as in countries where Airbus is alleged to have paid bribes including Sri Lanka, Indonesia, and Tunisia are calling on those investigating Airbus to make sure that the company and senior executives are properly punished and that there is no political interference in the investigation.

7 jurisdictions are conducting investigations into allegations of corruption against Airbus, which relate to at least 14 countries. By some estimates, Airbus has paid over \$650 million in bribes to win \$33.1 billion worth of contracts – a figure which is likely to be on the conservative side. The allegations are egregious and widespread, covering every division within Airbus from commercial aircraft, to helicopters, to aerospace and defence.

One newspaper report in September 2017 suggested that enforcement agencies in the UK and France were in talks with Airbus to have a \$1 billion or more settlement, though other press reports have said the investigation could take some years to complete due to its size.

Today the CSOs in a letter to the heads of the Serious Fraud Office, Parque Nacional Financier and Department of Justice urged the authorities to ensure that:

- National economic interest, relations with foreign states or the importance of Airbus as a national industry must not affect the investigation or prosecution of alleged bribery by the company;
- Individuals at a senior level responsible for the wrongdoing must face prosecution;
- No immunity deals must be included in any action taken against Airbus;
- A settlement should only be given if prosecutors can have high confidence that Airbus has fully cooperated and revealed the full extent of wrongdoing, and if it has fully signed up to genuine corporate change including through disciplining of employees responsible for wrongdoing;
- Countries where it is proven that Airbus has paid bribes must be fully compensated for harm caused; and
- Any enforcement action must be properly transparent with full details made available of the wrongdoing.