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**FOR
INFORMATION**

COUNCIL

Progress Report #6 on Installation of ALMA in Chile

PROGRESS REPORT #6 ON INSTALLATION OF ALMA IN CHILE

1. Overall Negotiations with the Chilean Government

Status

The ALMA collaboration programme in Chile, with CONICYT and Region II is to be concluded. Foreign Affairs Undersecretary has stated (verbally) that the total programme level proposed by ALMA, (US\$ 700 k, including yearly rent of the concession) has been accepted. No formal communication has been made (see Report No. 5), and it seems that Foreign Affairs could not yet convince CONICYT and Region II on the distribution level.

2. Agreement ESO-Government of Chile

Status

The ESO-Government of Chile Agreement has been forwarded for Parliamentary ratification to the Presidential Ministry that coordinates the projects to be submitted to Parliament. Following intervention of Interior Minister Insulza (see Report No. 5), this Ministry came to the conclusion that Parliamentary ratification was not required from a legal point of view. However, Foreign Affairs insists on having the Agreement ratified.

Foreign Affairs considers that matters related to International Treaties are to be decided internally. At a meeting with Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Barros, Ambassador Winter and the Director of the Legal Department, ESO was assured that the ratification process would be ready in March.

3. Land issue

Status

The land appraisal process has been concluded recently by the authorities of Region II, in order to be communicated to the Minister of Public Assets.

- Concession fees (yearly rent) US\$ 115.000
- OSF purchase (one time payment) US\$ 250.000
- Right of way requisition (one time payment) US\$ 86.000

The right of way corresponds to the access road between the San Pedro-Toconao public road and the OSF. The upper road (OSF-Chajnantor) is included in the concession. The right of way is the preferred option and has been accepted by the Ministry of Public Asset. It provides the same guarantee as a private property and is of permanent nature.

It should be noted that the figures mentioned above are indicative and that the Ministry of Public Assets is still to review them before making a final offer to ALMA.

4. Environmental Impact Study (EIS)

Status

Addendum No. 1 to the EIS base line has been issued and sent to the Environmental Agency, CONAMA. Queries and comments from the different regional department have been considered answered.

It is expected that with a second iteration and interaction (Addendum No. 2) with the local authorities involved with the project, the approval process can be completed. This would allow the Regional Authority (COREMA) to issue a positive resolution in March/April.

5. Radio frequency protection

Status

ESO-AUI have now formally applied to the Telecommunications Ministry for the protection scheme defined in Report No. 4.