



ARGENTINE DELEGATION CALLS BOTNIA TO SACK FAROPA

August 31, Helsinki - The Executive Director of CEDHA and the Assembly of Gualaguaychú, publicly called upon Botnia's Vice-president of the Environment, Kaisu Annala, to fire Carlos Faropa, Botnia's Director in Uruguay, for his ineptitude and critical errors in Botnia's Environmental Impact Studies that were made under his leadership and constitute the basis of complaints that still persist, and that are constantly growing within the local community, and for which the World Bank and other international and public financial institutions have indefinitely stalled credits for the project worth nearly US\$2 billion.

Faropa, the Uruguayan engineer who came from 'Papel Prensa', a pulp mill in the Buenos Aires province that has a long history of contamination in the locality of Campana, was shown in a video aired nationally by Argentine television showing the organization of a payment of a supposed bribe to Uruguayan environmentalists so that they would not oppose the installation of Botnia's mill.

Taillant argued before the highest Finnish authorities, before press and the representatives of Botnia itself, that Uruguay's Director of Botnia, Faropa, should be held responsible for the destruction of Finland's image in Argentina, a reputation that is beginning to spread to other companies such as Nokia, that although having nothing to do with the investment, was forced to flee in the face of protests in Argentina and provide explanations for the inappropriate behaviour of Botnia in South America.

In a change of stance by the Finnish Government, the Minister for External Trade and Industry, Lehtomaki, offered the government's good offices to search for a solution to the conflict, which is certainly a demonstration that the government fears the collapse of Finland's international image caused by the bad management of a Finnish enterprise. Finland, Taillant and Bargas believe that the blame lays squarely on the shoulders of Carlos Faropa of Botnia, Uruguay.

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