

9 May 2017

## **SHAREHOLDERS' MEETING OF 10 MAY 2017**

### **RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTION PUT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The French Commercial Code grants each shareholder the right to submit written questions, to which the Board of Directors is required to respond to the Shareholders' Meeting. It should be noted that, in order to be accepted, the written questions must relate to the agenda of the Shareholders' Meeting. They must also be directed to the Chairman of the Board of Directors and sent to the company's Head office, either by registered letter with advice of receipt or by email, no earlier than the date of the notice of the Shareholders' Meeting, and no later than four business days prior to the Shareholders' Meeting (4 May 2017). Lastly, they must be accompanied by a share ownership certificate.

Article L.225-108, paragraph 4 of the French Commercial Code states that a response to a written question shall be considered to have been given when, prior to the Shareholders' Meeting, it is posted on the company's website in a section set aside for that purpose.

The Company received one written question, to which the Board of Directors provided the following response during its meeting of 9 May 2017.

#### **Question received from IPAC (*Initiative Pour un Actionnariat Citoyen*) on 2 May 2017**

On 19 September 2016, Suez Water Inc. New Jersey made a financial contribution to Trump for America Inc., the non-profit organisation created to support the transition of Donald Trump.

Given the controversy contributions to political organisations can cause, in particular when such contributions are made by companies providing services to public authorities, could you specify the Group's worldwide policy regarding providing financing to political parties and to organisations that serve political purposes?

#### **Response:**

The Group's policy is to generally refrain from all political financing activities. However, in countries where such financing is authorised and standard practice, the Group may, in certain circumstances, consider making financial contributions or providing other types of support. In any case, such support must be kept to a minimum, remain the exception, and avoid favouring a particular party or supporting candidates opposed to democratic principles or human rights. Group policy requires authorisation to be obtained before any such contribution is made.



In this case, the making of contributions to non-profit organisations providing support to United States presidential candidates is a common among companies based in the United States. This open and transparent practice is conducted via political action committees (PACs), and is governed by the Federal Election Campaign Act (FECA). In conformity with its practice during previous presidential elections, Suez Water New Jersey made a contribution of USD 5,000 both to the campaign of Hillary Clinton and to that of Donald Trump, and did not indicate a preference for either candidate.