



PRESS RELEASE

Andrézieux, April 8, 2020

Investigation of the Saint-Etienne Prosecutor's Office: The SNF Group is not targeted by the judicial procedure

The SNF Group, as well as its French subsidiary, confirm that the companies are not in any way incriminated in the investigation carried out on April 3, 2020 by the Public Prosecutor's Office of Saint-Etienne (Loire) concerning the purchase of chloroquine phosphate by its founder, René Pich.

The SNF Group wishes to reaffirm in the most formal way that it has no link whatsoever with this judicial file. The complaint of April 3, 2020 by the Parquet of Saint-Etienne (Loire) targets individually René Pich, founder of SNF and not the company SNF itself. The SNF group is now headed by Pascal Remy, who has been the Chairman and CEO and the legal representative of the parent company since November 2010.

The company also certifies that it has never purchased chloroquine. It also confirms that no SNF employee has ever received chloroquine, neither from René Pich, nor from anyone within the company.

The health of its employees being at the heart of the Group's concerns, the company has obviously implemented on all of its industrial sites all the measures essential for their safety, by scrupulously following the instructions of the health authorities and ensuring information of all our staff on barrier gestures and health security procedures to be observed during this period. All of these initiatives have enabled the group to continue its activities while ensuring the health and safety of its employees.

Regarding the investigation carried out by the Saint-Etienne Prosecutor's Office, the authorities seek to understand the conditions and the ends of René Pich's personal purchase of 18 tablets of chloroquine phosphate. René Pich has already informed the judicial authorities and the media that it was an acquisition for his own use and to possibly give them free of charge to hospitals that could have used it. The tablets have all been returned to the judicial authorities.

The SNF company expresses its support to its founder for what appears to be a personal initiative, "absent from a lucrative spirit" as the Public Prosecutor himself pointed out. René Pich declared it personally in a recent press release taken up by Agence France Presse.

SNF is a group specializing in water chemistry and more than 80% of its activity is aimed either at treating or preserving water. As such, the group has a decisive role in the sanitation and drinking water production chain and the company estimates that nearly one billion human beings live in cities where sanitation is ensured by its products.

In Europe, and in France in particular, SNF is one of the major players which deals in particular with a very large number of French municipal water plants. In a context where water stations keep



a minimum stock, a disruption in supply could quickly create a situation of tension detrimental to the availability of French citizens for drinking water. It is therefore essential that its activity in the general interest be continued and society has been helped in this direction by the administrative authorities who have recognized the vital activity for the Nation of the Andrézieux site.

Beyond ensuring what the group considers to be a public health mission, it is also committed to being a group acting and helping for solidarity, as far as possible, for our country to get out of this crisis of unsurpassed severity as best as possible. We have thus acquired through our Chinese subsidiaries 500,000 HN95 masks (Chinese equivalent of the FFP2 standard) which are distributed free of charge to hospitals in our region as they arrive. To date, more than 70,000 masks have already been donated.

SNF employs over 6,500 people worldwide, including around 1,400 in France. The company's annual turnover was 3.4 billion euros in 2019.

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